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OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

COMPRISING PERIOD
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23 January 2012

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 23 January 2012

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 24 January 2012. The Chancellor will attend. The following items are on the agenda to be discussed (as of 20 January 2012):

European Markets Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR)

Ministers will have an exchange of views on the outstanding issues on EMIR. Trialogues have been ongoing since ECOFIN reached general agreement on 4 October. The outstanding issues relate to the process for authorisation of central counterparties (CCPs), and provisions relating to third countries. The Danish presidency is seeking a solution that retains the key principles of the Council position while integrating a number of the European Parliament's concerns.

On the authorisation of CCPs, the Government believe that the National Competent Authority must have a pre-eminent role. Therefore, any agreement should maintain the principles established at the 4 October ECOFIN. On third country provisions, the objective should be the smooth functioning of the global derivatives market while providing ex ante legal certainty to market participants. It is important that jurisdictions recognise the global nature of the derivatives market and ensure that legislation enables the smooth functioning of this market in a safe manner.

Proposals from the Commission on Economic Governance

ECOFIN will hold a first exchange of views on two Commission proposals to strengthen economic governance. There are no direct policy implications for the UK as these proposals apply to the euro area only. The first proposal concerns strengthening surveillance of budgetary policies. It would require: euro area member states to present their draft budgets at the same time each year and give the Commission the right to assess them; closer monitoring and reporting requirements for euro area countries in excessive deficit procedure; and that euro area member states have in place independent fiscal councils and base their budgets on independent forecasts.

The second proposal concerns strengthening economic and fiscal surveillance of euro area countries facing, or threatened with, serious financial instability. It aims to ensure that the surveillance of member states under a financial assistance programme, or facing a serious threat of financial instability, is: robust, follows clear procedures and is embedded in EU law. Under the proposal, the Commission would be able to decide whether a member state experiencing severe financial instability should be subject to enhanced surveillance. The Council would be able to issue a recommendation to such member states to request financial assistance.

The UK welcomes these proposals, as they will play an important role in improving fiscal stability in the euro area, which is a good outcome for the UK. The Government are however keen to ensure that, despite applying only to the euro area, these proposals maintain the role of the Council and EFC.

Presentation of the Presidency work programme

The presidency will present Ministers with its work programme. It has four priorities:

A responsible Europe—making progress on financial regulation dossiers and multi-annual financial framework (MFF) negotiations;

A dynamic Europe—revitalising the single market and encouraging policies which stimulate EU growth;

A green Europe—advancing energy efficiency and climate change initiatives; and

A safe Europe—including combating terrorism and ensuring the EU speaks with one voice on international affairs.

The Government agree that making progress on financial regulation dossiers is important, and will want to see budgetary restraint in the MFF negotiations. The Government support efforts to stimulate EU growth and strengthen the single market.

European Semester (incl. Annual Growth Survey and Euro-Plus Pact)

Ministers will have an exchange of views on the second European semester. The Government believe that the European semester should identify and prioritise policy measures that promote jobs and growth. To achieve this, ECOFIN Ministers need to ensure that fiscal consolidation and tackling macro-economic imbalances is pursued alongside growth-enhancing structural reforms. The Government do not agree with the focus on taxation in the annual growth survey; it is important that member states retain the flexibility to shape their own tax policies to suit their economic circumstances.

Follow-up to the G20 Meeting of Finance Deputies (Mexico, 19-20 January 2012)

The presidency will give a debrief of the G20 Finance Deputies' meeting. Items include: the global economy and framework; strengthening of the international financial architecture; financial regulation including financial inclusion; and energy and commodities. This agenda item will provide further clarity on the direction that Mexico would like to take.

Implementation of Stability and Growth Pact

Ministers will discuss the Commission's assessments of Belgium, Cyprus, Malta, Poland and Hungary's progress on correcting their excessive deficits. The Commission has assessed that the first four member states have taken effective action and no further steps under the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) are necessary. For Hungary, the Commission proposes to move to the next stage of EDP and recommends that the Council decides that no effective action has been taken to bring the deficit below 3% of GDP in a sustainable manner. Subject to this decision, the Commission may then propose new recommendations, with a view to Hungary effectively addressing its excessive deficit. The Government believe that sound public finances are essential for sustainable economic growth.

Revised Code of Conduct of the Stability and Growth Pact

The presidency will ask Ministers to endorse a revised code of conduct. The code of conduct provides guidelines on: the implementation of the stability and growth pact and the content of stability and convergence programmes. The code of conduct has been updated in the light of the new economic governance legislation. The Government support the revised code of conduct.

Eurogroup-plus meeting on 23 January

Ministers will meet on 23 January, prior to ECOFIN. They will discuss the intergovernmental agreement and follow up to the December European Council. Ministers will also discuss the European stability mechanism. On growth and competitiveness, the Government are at the forefront of driving the EU growth agenda, and will continue to press for action. On the intergovernmental agreement, the Government will be engaging constructively in discussions. The UK will not be party to the new treaty.

EDUCATION

School Travel Pathfinder Schemes

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): I am required under section 80(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) to prepare and publish, before 1 January 2012, an evaluation of the operation and effect of school travel schemes approved under schedule 35C to the Act.

The School Travel (Piloting of Schemes) (England) Regulations 2007 made provision for the piloting of the school travel schemes and listed the information which local authorities were required to include in their applications to pilot such schemes. As none of the schemes submitted fully met the criteria, none of the schemes was approved, and consequently there is no evaluation to publish. I am therefore proposing, by means of an order under s80(2) EIA 2006, to provide for the cessation of the school travel scheme provisions in section 508E and schedule 35C of the Education Act 1996. The order will specify 1 August 2012 or a date shortly after on which the provisions are to cease. 1 August 2012 is the earliest date cessation can be effected under s80(3) EIA 2006.

HEALTH

Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Improving Outcomes and Supporting Transparency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): Today I am publishing the new public health outcomes framework. "Healthy Lives, Healthy People, Improving outcomes and supporting transparency". This will help enable Government, Public Health England, the NHS and local government to be held to account in how well we are doing in improving and protecting the nation's health. To do this, we have focused on the most important things we want to do to improve and protect the nation's health and wellbeing and improve the health of the poorest, fastest.

The White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for public health in England" (Cm7985), described a new era for public health, with a higher priority and dedicated resources. We set out the scope for a new public health system refocused around achieving positive health outcomes for the population and reducing inequalities in health. This public health outcomes framework sets the context for the system, from local to national level. This is a national framework and local priorities and objectives will be set through local health improvement plans. The framework sets out indicators to measure how we are improving and protecting health at key stages in peoples' lives and to reduce inequalities in health.

We will continue to work across Government and with our partners in public health, local government, the NHS, other public services and the third sector to improve the data we will rely upon to provide information on how we well we are doing to improve outcomes.

"Healthy Lives, Healthy People, Improving outcomes and supporting transparency" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

The document is also available at: www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/01/public-health-outcomes.

JUSTICE

EU Treaties

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The Home Office and the Ministry of Justice have prepared the second annual report to Parliament on the application of protocols 19 and 21 to the treaty on European Union (TEU) and the treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU) ("the treaties") in relation to EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) matters. The report is submitted on behalf of both my own Department and that of the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

On 9 June 2008 the right hon. Baroness Ashton, the then Leader of the House of Lords, made a statement setting out commitments by the Government to Parliament in respect of the scrutiny of decisions to be taken by the Government in accordance with protocol (No. 21) to the treaties on the position of the UK and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice ("the Justice and Home Affairs opt-in protocol"). These commitments were designed to ensure that the views of the Scrutiny Committees should inform the Government's decision-making process.

This included a pledge that the Government would lay a report in Parliament each year and make it available for debate, both looking ahead to the Government's approach to EU Justice and Home Affairs policy and forthcoming dossiers, including in relation to the opt-in, and providing a retrospective annual report on the UK's application of the opt-in protocol.

On 20 January 2011, the Minister for Europe confirmed in his statement to Parliament on enhancing parliamentary scrutiny of decisions in the area of EU Justice and

Home Affairs that the coalition Government have undertaken to maintain this commitment, and this is the second such report. It covers the period 1 December 2010 to 30 November 2011. For completeness the report also covers the application of protocol 19 to the treaties on the Schengen acquis integrated into the framework of the EU ("the Schengen opt-out protocol"). The Government's decision-making process for this protocol is the same as for the Justice and Home Affairs opt-in protocol.

TRANSPORT

Maritime Training Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): Further to my announcement of 22 June 2011, I would like to inform Parliament of the outcome of the independent review into the requirement for Government support for merchant navy training and skills development and how best to spend any continuing Government funding.

I have concluded that continuing Government support for maritime training is required. The consultants' findings, accepted by the independent panel, were that there was a good value for money case for the retention of Government funding. Evidence was presented to me showing that for each working year of a seafarer who has benefited from Government funding, approximately £14,500 in additional output is created relative to that of a UK worker displaying average productivity.

With over 90% of the UK's import and export trade by weight transported by the maritime sector, I believe continuing Government support in this area will reflect our ongoing commitment to economic growth and will help to maintain the competitiveness of this sector.

I have therefore decided to provide a budget of £12 million a year for the support for maritime training scheme for the remainder of this Parliament. In view of the forecast national shortage of trained seafarers and the need to develop the next generation of UK officers and ratings, I intend that the majority of the budget be focused on supporting initial training for cadets studying at junior officer level with the remainder supporting ratings training and ratings to officer conversion training.

I will be making a number of minor changes to the current scheme to achieve greater value for money by maximising the intake of trainees while ensuring more rigorous accountability structures are in place.

These changes are consistent with the Government's wider commitment to improve the transparency and accountability of public spending.

I will also be considering longer-term options to deliver merchant navy training within an overarching skills and apprenticeship framework.

A copy of the consultants' findings and the recommendations made by the independent panel have been placed in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 24 January 2012

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Executive Pay

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): Last September, I published papers which explored the issues around the rapid growth in executive pay in our largest listed companies. Yesterday I announced the package of measures that the Government will take forward to tackle this issue on four fronts:

Greater transparency;
More shareholder power;
Reform of remuneration committees;
Best practice led by the business and investor community.

Through secondary legislation later this year the Government will require companies to publish clearer and more informative information about how executives are being rewarded. This starts with remuneration reports being split into two sections: one detailing the proposed future policy for executive pay; the other setting out how pay policy has been implemented in the preceding year.

When outlining future policy, remuneration committees will be expected to explain why they have used specific benchmarks and how they have taken employee earnings—including pay differentials—into account in setting pay. They will have to explain how they have consulted and taken into account the views of employees.

Companies will be required to say clearly and succinctly how the proposed pay structures reflect and support company strategy; how performance will be assessed; and how it will translate into rewards under different scenarios.

When reporting on pay for the previous year, companies will have to provide a single figure for total pay for each director and to explain how the pay awards relate to the performance of the company. To provide context, companies will be mandated to produce a distribution statement, outlining how executive pay compares with other dispersals such as dividends, business investment, taxation and general staffing costs.

Alongside more information, shareholders need new powers to hold the board to account. I will consult shortly on proposals to reform the current voting arrangements and give shareholders a binding vote, enabling them to exert more pressure on boards. The consultation will include the following options:

A binding vote on future pay policy, including details of how performance will be judged and real numbers on the potential pay outs directors could receive. Companies will have to include a statement on how they have taken account of shareholder views and the result of previous votes.

A binding vote on any directors notice period which is longer than one year and on exit payments over one year's salary.

Binding votes are more difficult to apply retrospectively because of contractual complications and I will consider whether there should be further sanctions when a remuneration committee report attracts significant dissent on an advisory vote.

The consultation will also look at what level of shareholder support companies should have to get in order to pass pay proposals, and consider raising the threshold for a successful vote to 75% of share votes cast for the motion.

The Government will address fundamental conflicts of interest in the pay-setting process. We will require greater transparency around the role of consultants, how they are appointed and paid, and to whom they report and advise. I will also ask the Financial Reporting Council to amend the UK corporate governance code to put an end to the practice of serving executives sitting on the remuneration committees of other large companies.

This package of measures will create a more robust framework within which executive pay is set and agreed. However, lasting reform depends on active shareholders and responsible business leaders accepting the need for change and pushing the agenda forward. In the following weeks and months I will strongly encourage business and investor groups to build on the current momentum for reform, agree on what best practice looks like and promote this more widely.

Post Office Network

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): On 9 November 2010, the Government published a statement on their plans for securing the future of the post office network. This set out the Government's recognition that post offices serve a distinct social purpose and pledged that consequently the Post Office would not be for sale. Instead, Post Office would remain in Government ownership.

At the same time, the Government committed to maintaining the post office network at its current size of around 11,500 branches and building a long term sustainable future for those branches. This commitment is underpinned by a £1.34 billion funding package to 2015, a substantial proportion of which is for an ambitious and challenging investment programme. It will refresh and modernise the network—addressing its underlying economics, to win new customers and to build new sources of revenue.

I am pleased to update the House on the progress that has been made since that statement was published.

Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd—Relationship Going Forward

Work to separate Post Office Ltd into an independent business alongside Royal Mail has continued throughout the past year. In line with Government commitments, Post Office Ltd now has a strengthened board with both a new chair and a senior independent director appointed in September 2011. Further non-executive appointments will be made in due course. This new board will ensure that Post Office Ltd benefits from increased levels of oversight and challenge as it moves to being a separate business from Royal Mail group in the coming months.

During consideration of the Postal Services Act in its Bill stage, Moya Greene, the chief executive of Royal Mail told the House that

> "To me it is unthinkable that we would ever have anything but the very strong relationship we have now with the Post Office".

This reflects the fact that Royal Mail relies on the Post Office to provide access to its services for the public and that Royal Mail is the Post Office's biggest customer. I gave a commitment to the House at that time that the Government would ensure that the two companies would put in place an appropriate new contract ahead of any separation of the businesses.

I can now confirm that both of these pledges have been met. A new 10-year agreement has been signed between Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd. This will ensure that the full range of Royal Mail products—including stamps, parcels, air mail and special delivery—will continue to be available over post office counters throughout the country for the long term. The agreement was commercially negotiated between Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd and reflects the clear continuing commitment of each business to the other.

Post Office Revenue Streams

The new agreement with Royal Mail provides a solid base for the relationship between those two companies. Clearly the Post Office cannot rely on mail income alone, and other traditional sources of income are in decline. The Government recognise Post Office Ltd must therefore develop new revenues if it is to thrive.

A Front Office for Government

Becoming a "front office" for central and local government are a key objective for Post Office Ltd. This will take time but I believe that Post Office Ltd is now well placed to build on its existing strengths—in particular its trusted role in communities and its extensive network—to further develop its role in this area.

Post Office Ltd faces a clear challenge as services are increasingly provided online or to consumers directly. Post Office Ltd has set out its clear ambition to work with this shift, providing services to support digital delivery. These include face-to-face ID verification, data capture for digital applications, and assisted services for those unable to access online services.

I fully support this ambition, and have been pleased to note the significant successes that Post Office Ltd has achieved so far. Most recently, the company was chosen to collect digital data—fingerprints and photographs—for the UK Borders Agency biometric residency permits. This contract could be worth up to £36 million to the Post Office over the life of the contract. Post Office Ltd has also recently been selected to provide a variety of services which play well to its "front office" ambitions. For example, from November it has been providing identity verification for Criminal Records Bureau checks, to provide licences for London taxi drivers on behalf of the Public Carriage Office. Post Office Ltd will also provide a face-to-face service as part of a wider identity-based registration service to enrol learners to a "Learner Passport" service on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency. At the local level, Post Office Ltd won a contract from Westminster city council to provide a range of "front office" services (the first of which went live in November). It has also been selected to provide a face-to-face enrolment service that will allow local authority employees to access secure Government systems.

The Post Office continues to actively engage with Government as it scopes out how it will deliver more key services in the future. By doing this it is developing its services to ensure a pipeline of services that Government and citizens wish to use. A good example is the Post Office working with the Cabinet Office as part of the identity assurance programme. Through this, the Post Office is further expanding its existing identity verification capability—a function that will be increasingly important as Government deliver more services online. The Post Office also continues to work with Departments—DWP and HMRC—on a number of pilots to test different services, which will help to inform the delivery plans for major Government priorities, such as the future introduction of universal credit. As part of this, the Post Office is developing new offerings to assist those who are currently unable to access services or information online, building on information from pilots such as print-on-demand kiosks—currently operational in Reading and Birmingham. This supports Government's digital by default agenda.

I also fully support closer engagement between Post Office Ltd and local government. A year-long pilot partnership between Post Office Ltd, Sheffield city council and the National Federation of SubPostmasters has recently concluded and reported its findings. The partnership sought to identify ways of improving the sustainability of the local post office network and to establish the scope for post offices to deliver a wider range of public services. The partnership demonstrated that closer engagement would deliver clear benefits for Post Office Ltd, local government and consumers. We are now exploring these initiatives further with Sheffield as well as an additional 25 local authorities in England and Wales. Similar developments are taking place in Scotland following a successful meeting held with the Scottish Government, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, National Federation of SubPostmasters and Post Office Ltd.

Financial Services

The expansion of accessible and affordable personal financial services available at post offices is another important element of the Post Office's strategy. Here, too, good progress is being made. For example, Post Office Ltd recently launched a Junior ISA and it remains the No.1 provider of foreign exchange. Its mortgages and its savings bonds have been prominent in the best buy tables. Over the last year Post Office Ltd has won a range of consumer awards for savings, loan, mortgage and insurance products. Post Office also continues to review and consider the introduction of new products that could be suitable for a range of different customer groups—including the financially excluded—while also contributing to the commercial viability of the network.

Royal Bank of Scotland (including NatWest) customers are now able to access their current and business banking accounts over post office counters, meaning that around 80% of people can now access their current accounts in this way. These arrangements are particularly important to those without easy access to alternative banking facilities nearby. For this reason, I would like to see 100% of current accounts accessible in this way. We have held discussions with the remaining banks that do not currently offer this service—HSBC and Santander—and hope that they will choose to do so in the near future.

Post offices also provide a series of services for credit unions, more than 20 of which use the Co-operative bank's banking platform for cash receipts and payments as well as balance enquiries. Over 60 credit unions use Post Office's bill payment facilities to enable repayments and the Post Office also has established a scheme whereby credit unions can utilise its "payout" service, with a small number currently doing so. Some individual sub-postmasters also carry out manual "paper" transactions for local credit unions within their private retail business alongside their post office. I hope that Post Office Ltd's links with credit unions can be strengthened even further as the sector develops in the future.

National Savings & Investment's recent decision to withdraw some products from sale at post offices (either because sales of those products were being stopped completely or because they are now to be offered solely through direct channels) presents the Post Office with an opportunity to further develop its own growing range of competitive savings and investments accounts to enhance customer choice. At the same time, premium bonds, which currently account for 75% of all NS&I sales by value through post offices, will still remain available for purchase at any post office.

Post Office Network

All of these initiatives are making a major contribution to improving the sustainability of the post office network. The latest quarterly figures at end December 2011 show a network of 11,801 outlets, of which 5,351 are in urban areas and 6,450 in rural areas.

Post Office Ltd is committed to maintaining the network of at least 11,500 branches throughout this Parliament and it will continuously seek to recruit a new sub-postmaster to replace the incumbent wherever there is not an immediate transfer of the business under a commercial sale. The closure programmes of the past will not be repeated under this Government. These minimum network commitments ensure that services will be available in the places where people want them, but services must also be available at the times people want them—for example on their way to or from work.

Expanded pilot trials of new operating models which can deliver these changes, "Post Office Main" and "Post Office Local", are continuing and are currently operating in 153 locations across the UK. Both of these new operating models involve investment into the location and are aimed at creating better environments for customers with longer and more convenient opening hours. The purpose of pilots is to enable these models to be refined and developed in the light of experience. Consumer and retailer issues identified in the pilot phase are being closely monitored and addressed. These pilot trials are therefore providing valuable insight into the potential of the new models for both customers and operators. They are also giving an opportunity to further develop and tailor the products and services offered in order to match customer demand and usage as closely as it is possible to do on a sustainable basis. Independent research shows that the Post Office Local pilots have been very well received and are generating high levels of customer and operator satisfaction. In the most recent research interviewing over 1,000 customers in November 2011, 91 % stated they were extremely or very satisfied with the overall branch experience. If you add those who stated they were "fairly satisfied" the total figure is 98%. Extended opening hours for the convenience of customers is a significant benefit of the Post Office Local operating model. A typical traditional post office might be open 46 hours per week. The average for the Post Office Locals that are currently being piloted is 81 hours per week.

These convenient opening hours are attractive to customers—the latest Post Office research suggests a third of the customers of the Post Office Locals are visiting the post office in the early morning or later in the evening.

These longer hours appear to be cutting queues. The survey also found that 68% of Post Office Local customers were served with no wait and of those who did have to wait to be served, 89% found the waiting time acceptable.

From the summer. Post Office Ltd, drawing on the experience and results of the extensive pilot trials, will begin a carefully managed, but voluntary, programme of converting branches to the new operating models in places where introducing the models enhances both customer service and the long-term sustainability of the post office. This will be linked to an accompanying programme of substantial investment in the network. Where a relocation of post offices services in any particular community appears to be appropriate, the proposal will of course continue to be subject to consultation with local authorities and local residents before changes are made in accordance with the code of practice set up by Post Office Ltd and Consumer Focus. In line with the views of the Post Office's stakeholders, including Consumer Focus, the whole logic of this investment activity is to seek to complement the aspirations of consumers, local communities and local sub-postmasters. That is why the programme is one of investment to sustain and improve the network and to provide greater convenience to customers. Collectively the aim is to draw a line under the past steady decline of the network.

Mutualisation

Looking forward, I believe that the continued success of this strategy will deliver a profitable business and a thriving post office network and that Post Office Ltd can be most successful when all of its key stakeholders are engaged in that goal. In due course, the Postal Services Act 2011 allows for Post Office Ltd to become a mutual but, in addition to a requirement for Parliament to approve any transfer, the Act imposes a further key condition that any mutual post office continues to act for the public benefit. Our public consultation "Building a Mutual Post Office", which sought views on the mutual concept and how it might be structured, closed on 12 December. Responses are now being studied and we expect to publish the Government's response in the spring.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Costa Concordia Incident

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): and The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): We would like to update the House on the Government's response to the sinking of the Costa Concordia cruise liner, which hit rocks off the Italian island of Giglio overnight on Friday 13 January.

In doing so, we wish to express our profound sympathy to the families and friends of those who have died or are missing as a result of this dreadful event, and to pay tribute to the Italian emergency services who acted promptly and professionally to ensure such large numbers of people reached safety.

In the immediate aftermath, our priority was to establish whether all British nationals involved were safe. We immediately deployed a British embassy team of consular experts to Porto Santo Stefano and sent a rapid deployment team from London. They worked in close concert with the Italian authorities and the cruise company throughout the weekend to identify all British nationals believed to be on board the ship, and to establish that they were safe.

The FCO crisis centre in London published a hotline number for worried family members and friends, cross-checking information on missing persons with that received from port authorities, the cruise company and local hospitals and hotels. As a result of this painstaking work the Foreign Secretary was able to announce on Sunday morning that all 35 British nationals known to be on the ship had been accounted for: 23 passengers and 12 crew members. The teams ensured that those British nationals who wanted to leave Italy were able to do so, even those whose passports, money and other valuables were left on the ship. Teams were deployed to the airport, as well as local hotels where British nationals were staying, to facilitate their return to the UK.

We have offered the Italian Government any assistance they may find useful in responding to this accident. In particular, we have made available the considerable maritime expertise available in our Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

At this time, the cause of the accident remains unknown. We must wait for the results of the investigation by the Italian authorities before deciding whether any action is required to ensure the safety of other vessels. Should the conclusions of the investigation suggest a need for revisions on any aspect of cruise ship design or operation, then the International Maritime Organisation will be the forum for agreeing improvements. The development of passenger ship regulations is an iterative process based on practical experience. By applying the lessons from previous incidents the cruise industry generally enjoys an excellent safety record.

HEALTH

PIP Breast Implants and Regulation of Cosmetic Interventions

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): In my oral statement to the House of 11 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 181-183, I described the immediate action which the Government are taking to address the concerns of women who have received breast implants made by the company Poly Implant Prothèse (PIP). I said that, in the light of these events, we needed both to review the lessons that could be learnt, and to consider the wider issues of ensuring the safety of people who are considering cosmetic surgery and similar treatments. I therefore announced two reviews, one to be led by my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Earl Howe) which will look at what happened in the United Kingdom in relation to PIP implants; and the second, to be led by the NHS Medical Director, Sir Bruce Keogh, to look at the wider issues of clinical safety and regulation.

The review to be carried out by Earl Howe will report by the end of March 2012 and the terms of reference are:

Review of actions of the MHRA and wider Department of Health

"In the context of current EC directives on the regulation of medical devices and the information generally available at the time on the risks associated with breast implants, to review:

1. what information about PIP implants was available from routine adverse reporting systems;
2. what external concerns about PIP implants were brought to the attention of the MHRA or the wider Department of Health, and when;
3. how these concerns and any related information were handled;
4. what advice was sought and from whom;
5. what information was shared between MHRA and its counterparts in other countries in the EU and elsewhere;
6. how decisions were taken, and who was involved in this process;
7. what action was taken to safeguard and advise patients;
8. whether action was sufficiently prompt and appropriate

The review will advise the Secretary of State on what lessons can be learned for application should similar circumstances arise in the future, and on implications for UK input to the ongoing review of the European Medical Devices Directives."

The review to be carried out by Sir Bruce Keogh will begin in March 2012 and will report within 9-12 months, that is, at the latest by March 2013, and the terms of reference are:

Review of regulation of cosmetic interventions

"Taking into account the Government's Better Regulation framework and the concurrent review by the EU of current arrangements for the regulation of medical devices:

1. To review the current arrangements for ensuring the quality and safety of cosmetic interventions posing a potential risk to physical or psychological health, and in particular to consider:

i. whether the regulation of the products used in such interventions is appropriate;

ii. how best to assure patients and consumers that the people who carry out procedures have the skills to do so;

iii. how to ensure that the organisations which deliver such procedures have the clinical governance systems to assure the care and welfare of people who use their services;

iv. how to ensure that people considering such interventions are given the information, advice and time for reflection to make an informed choice;

v. whether there should be a statutory requirement for such organisations to offer redress in the event of harm, and if so how this could be funded;

vi. what improvements are needed in systems for reporting patient outcomes, including adverse events, for central analysis and surveillance.

The review will consider issues of governance, data quality, record keeping and surveillance, as well as ensuring that sufficient information is provided to secure patients' informed consent. It will include consideration of the feasibility of an outcomes-based register of commonly implanted devices.

2. To make recommendations to Ministers, including interim recommendations if appropriate, and to inform the UK contribution to the EU review.

The interventions to be considered for the purpose of this review could potentially include:

a. the surgical insertion of a medical device or prosthesis, or other surgery intended to change the appearance of the body

b. injection with any product, whether medicinal or otherwise

c. any other form of intervention at the discretion of the review team where the intervention is not clinically indicated to safeguard or improve the physical health of the recipient."

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Procedures Committee: Membership

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): On behalf of the Home Office and the Minister for the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety for Northern Ireland, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Hilary Newiss to the Animal Procedures Committee, which provides Ministers with independent advice on the use of animals in scientific procedures.

Following open and public competition, Ms Newiss replaces a member who had participated as a member of the Committee for two terms and had stepped down.

I am grateful to her for accepting membership of this important advisory committee.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 25 January 2012

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Brazil and the Caribbean (Foreign Secretary Visit)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to update the House on my first official visit to Latin America and the Caribbean as Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

In November 2010 I set out in my Canning House lecture the Government's commitment to reinvigorating important relationships in Latin America. I am pleased to confirm that the Government are turning this vision into concrete results. Last year, 27 Ministers visited Latin America of which 14 visited Brazil. We have reopened our embassy in El Salvador and a new consulate in Recife and we are sending additional diplomats to the region to staff these new missions. As a major emerging political and economic power, Brazil's role in the world is set to grow. We also want to develop a better understanding between Britain and Brazil in foreign policy. Brazil's role in international affairs is set to grow significantly this century. This flows naturally from their growing economic weight and the shifting international landscape.

Britain has much of the expertise that Brazil needs as it continues its growth—including financial services, sustainable development, the energy sector, defence, security and sports infrastructure. During my visit I held a strategic dialogue with Foreign Minister Patriota—an upgraded mechanism for foreign policy and bilateral discussions between the two countries, reflecting the new momentum in the relationship. I also explored options for further bilateral defence and security co-operation with Defence Minister, Celso Amorim and the Head of the Brazilian Navy, Admiral Moura Neto. Britain and Brazil have a unique opportunity this decade to further bilateral relations through sport, as adjacent hosts of the Olympic and Paralympic games. My meeting with the Governor of Rio de Janeiro reinforced UK/Brazil political and commercial co-operation on the Olympics and the security issues related to these major sporting events. I also announced the launch of the Great Campaign in Brazil which will take place in March 2012 and HRH Prince Harry's visit at that time.

In a short visit to Panama on 20 January I met the President, First Lady, Foreign Minister and other member of the Panamanian Cabinet. We discussed Falkland Island issues, co-operation on combating money laundering and the possibility of a double taxation agreement with the UK.

In the Caribbean, I attended the UK/Caribbean ministerial forum, leading the strongest delegation of UK Ministers—the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), the Minister of State, Department for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Mr Duncan) and the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire)—and senior officials to visit the Caribbean in recent years. The forum brought together members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Dominican Republic, with the Caribbean Overseas Territories and Cuba, USA, Canada and Australia participating as observers. Together we committed to a revitalised partnership, with stronger co-operation on areas that matter to both Britain and the Caribbean: trade, counter-narcotics, climate change, and key foreign policy issues. In recognition of the private sector's role as an engine of growth, a broad range of British and Caribbean businesses also participated in the forum. The forum underlined the value we attach to our enduring friendship with the Caribbean and our desire to re-energise the relationship, creating a more modern, dynamic and forward looking affiliation.

The forum concluded with agreement to a new strategic economic partnership, promoting prosperity and economic resilience among the countries of the Caribbean and the United Kingdom. There was also agreement to enhance collaboration and co-ordination in the fight against illegal drug trafficking between the Caribbean, Britain and the Overseas Territories. This will include a new partnership between the UK, US and the Caribbean to develop land-based intelligence sharing and interdiction capability in the region. We also agreed on the importance of working together on further criminal justice reform which provides the essential underpinning for our drugs and crime work in the region. On climate change, we agreed to work together with urgency and vigour to close the ambition gap on emissions, to mobilise climate finance on the necessary scale, and to secure agreement by 2015 on a comprehensive legally binding global framework. Together we will continue to build on the alliance that emerged at COP17 between the members of the Alliance of Small Island States, Least Developed Countries and the EU. Finally, we agreed to work together in international forums, tackling pressing security issues facing the international community and working to strengthen the Commonwealth as a focus for democracy, human rights, development and prosperity. We also agreed a text in the Caribbean action plan to support the principle and right to self-determination for the Falkland Islanders.

It is this Government's intention to shape a distinctive foreign policy that protects and promotes our national interests, strengthens our economy, makes the most of the opportunities of the 21st century and upholds the highest values of our society. This visit is part of how we achieve that, and represents a step change in British—Latin American and Caribbean relations. I will also lay in the Library of the House a copy of my speech in Brazil and agreed text from the Caribbean forum on the Falkland Islands.

HEALTH

NHS Property Services

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I am announcing today our intention to create a Government-owned limited company, "NHS Property Services Ltd". The company will take ownership of and manage that part of the existing primary care trust estate that will not transfer to national health service community care providers under the plans for healthcare reform set out in the Health and Social Care Bill.

This follows on from the announcement on 4 August 2011 that aspirant community foundation trusts, other NHS trusts, and foundation trusts are to be given the opportunity to acquire part(s) of the primary care trust (PCT) estate deemed "service critical clinical infrastructure". A copy of the relevant guidance, "PCT Estate: future ownership and management of estate in the ownership of primary care trusts in England", has previously been placed in the Library.

NHS Property Services Ltd will be wholly owned by the Department of Health. The arrangements for it will be finalised in the coming months, however its objectives will be to:

hold property for use by community and primary care services, including for use by social enterprises;

deliver value for money property services;

cut costs of administering the estate by consolidating the management of over 150 estates;

deliver and develop cost-effective property solutions for community health services; and

dispose of property surplus to NHS requirements.

Properties to be transferred to NHS Property Services Ltd will include some operational estate, estate with multiple occupiers, office and administration estate, estate to be occupied by social enterprises and surplus estate.

Estate that is clearly linked to the provision of clinical services and mainly occupied by NHS providers for that purpose will be transferred to them.

Existing contractual arrangements with service providers that deliver and maintain NHS properties will remain in place to support the needs of this property portfolio.

TRANSPORT

Charging Heavy Goods Vehicles

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): The Department for Transport has today launched a consultation on a proposed road user charging scheme for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) of 12 tonnes and over. This is one of the commitments in the coalition programme for government.

The proposal's primary objective is to ensure fairer arrangements for UK hauliers. UK-registered HGVs already pay tolls or user charges on motorways and, frequently, other roads in most EU member states. Save on some specific pieces of infrastructure (the M6 toll and various bridges and tunnels), there are no tolls or user charges in the UK. As most foreign operators currently purchase their HGVs' fuel outside the UK, they therefore contribute nothing towards the cost of our roads.

A scheme for HGV road user charging cannot discriminate between UK-registered vehicles and vehicles registered elsewhere in the EU. It will therefore apply to both UK and foreign-registered HGVs. It must also comply with the Eurovignette directive (Directive 1999/62/EC as amended by 2006/38/EC and 2011/76/EU) which sets out a framework of rules for tolls and charges, including maximum daily rates for the latter.

We propose a simple time-based charge, applying to the use of any road in the United Kingdom, meaning that a five-axle HGV of 38 tonnes or more would pay £1,000 a year or £10 a day. The Eurovignette directive's maximum permitted charge is currently €11 per day, although by the introduction of the charge this is likely to have been uprated by inflation to €12 (about £10 at current exchange rates). The precise level of charges will depend on exchange rate movements and inflation between now and the implementation date later this Parliament. UK hauliers would pay an annual (or six months) charge for each HGV at the same time and in the same transaction as they pay its vehicle excise duty (VED). This would avoid extra administration costs for UK business. Foreign hauliers could pay daily, weekly, monthly or annual charges.

As VED and the charge are paid 12 months in advance, UK hauliers would begin to pay the user charge as they renewed an HGV's VED from 11 months before the introduction of charging for foreign vehicles.

The Government will also come forward with measures to offset the additional user charges for UK hauliers, through reductions in taxes, duties or charges they currently face, or through appropriate spending measures. The Chancellor has discretion over tax and spending measures, but the most likely balancing measure in practice will be a reduction in VED towards minimum EU-levels.

The overall cost burden will not increase for the vast majority of UK-registered vehicles. We believe that, if we reduce VED to levels at or just above the minimum rates set out in the Eurovignette directive, around 94% of the current UK vehicle fleet would be no worse off, with 98% paying no more than £50 a year extra.

Non-payment of the user charge would be a criminal offence, which could result in a fine imposed by the courts. The user charge would be enforced by DVLA records, ANPR cameras and checks by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) at the roadside. VOSA would also be able to issue fixed penalties on the spot to non-compliant drivers (and take financial deposits from drivers based outside the UK).

We are consulting on whether the scheme as a whole should be implemented, as well as on the details of the proposed charging bands, how the scheme will be administered, payment methods, enforcement and support for UK hauliers.

The consultation will run until 18 April 2012. The consultation document and associated tax impact assessment are available in the Library of the House, or on the DFT website at: www.dft.gov.uk.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Automatic Enrolment Timetable

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): On 28 November 2011, the Government announced that the timetable for the implementation of automatic enrolment will be adjusted so that small businesses are not affected by the reforms during this Parliament. This will provide them with some additional breathing space to prepare for the reforms while operating in tough economic times.

We also reaffirmed our commitment that automatic enrolment will start on time, from October 2012, and will apply to all employers.

I can now confirm that under the revised timeline, all employers with an existing staging date of on or before 1 February 2014 are unaffected. This means that no large employer will have to make any changes to their plans—which are in many cases already advanced.

Medium-sized employers will be reallocated automatic enrolment dates between 1 April 2014 and 1 April 2015. This means that the implementation dates of some of these employers will be up to nine months later. However, this still means that around 70% of eligible workers will be automatically enrolled before the end of this Parliament compared with around 75% under previous arrangements.

Small employers will be allocated automatic enrolment dates between 1 June 2015 and 1 April 2017.

New employers setting up business from 1 April 2012 and up to and including 30 September 2017 will have automatic enrolment dates between, and including, 1 May 2017 and 1 February 2018. Any new employer setting up from 1 October 2017 onwards will be required to comply immediately if paying earnings which attract PAYE deductions in respect of any worker.

We propose to delay from 1 October 2016 to 1 October 2017 the increase in the minimum rate of employer pension contributions from 1% to 2% of banded earnings. Contributions will increase to 3% from 1 October 2018.

We plan to publish a consultation document on the detail of these changes shortly. Draft regulations and an impact assessment will be published alongside the consultation document.

The table below sets out the revised automatic enrolment dates for all employer sizes.

Employer Size (by PAYE Scheme Size) or Other Description	*Automatic Enrolment Duty Date*	
	From (inc.)	*To (inc.)*
250 or more members	1st October 2012	1st February 2014
50 to 249 members	1st April 2014	1st April 2015
Test tranche for less than 30 members	1st June 2015	30th June 2015
30 to 49 members	1st August 2015	1st October 2015
Less than 30 members	1st January 2016	1st April 2017
Employers without PAYE schemes	1st April 2017	-
New employers Apr 2012 to Mar 2013	1st May 2017	-
New employers Apr 2013 to Mar 2014	1st July 2017	-
New employers Apr 2014 to Mar 2015	1st August 2017	-
New employers Apr 2015 to Dec 2015	1st October 2017	-
New employers Jan 2016 to Sep 2016	1st November 2017	-
New employers Oct 2016 to Jun 2017	1st January 2018	-
New employers Jul 2017 to Sep 2017	1st February 2018	-
New employers Oct 2017	Immediate duty	-

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 26 January 2012

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Pre-packaged Sales in Insolvency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): In March 2011 I announced that we would be taking steps to improve the transparency and confidence of pre-pack sales in insolvency. We subsequently consulted interested parties on measures targeted at the sales of assets in insolvent companies where these are sold to connected parties (such as the directors or their close associates).

Pre-pack sales can offer a flexible and speedy means of business rescue and when used appropriately can be the best way of maximising returns for creditors. However, everyone who is affected by insolvency is entitled to have confidence that insolvency procedures are used fairly and that insolvency practitioners deliver the best possible outcome for all creditors.

It is apparent that concerns remain about the use of pre-pack sales, particularly where the assets are sold to a connected party—something that is often referred to as "phoenix-ism". I am concerned about the potential for sales to be effected at an undervalue, particularly in smaller-value asset sales, where unsecured creditors may receive less than they should. I also believe that it is important to consider the effect of pre-pack sales on competitors in the market.

Following the announcement, BIS officials have discussed the merits and practical application of the proposed measures with a range of interested parties, including secured and unsecured creditors, insolvency practitioners, and business representatives.

Having taken account of all the issues, however, the Government are not convinced that the benefit of new legislative controls presently outweighs the overall benefit to business of adhering to the moratorium on regulations affecting micro-business which is an important plank of this Government's deregulatory agenda. As much of the concern was related to small businesses, I do not consider that measures should be introduced just for businesses other than micro-businesses. It is for this reason that I am today announcing that the Government will not be seeking to introduce new legislative controls on pre-packs at this time.

The Insolvency Service, an Executive agency of BIS, already monitors compliance by insolvency practitioners with the professional standard statement of Insolvency Practice 16 (Pre-packaged Sales in Administrations) which requires administrators to provide creditors with early post-sale information on details of the sale and the justification for it. I have asked BIS officials to now undertake an urgent review in conjunction with stakeholders of how the existing controls on pre-packs have been working and whether, in the light of their experiences and the outcomes from the monitoring, more could be done within the existing regulatory framework to improve confidence and transparency. The issues raised by pre-packs are important matters that affect a wide range of stakeholders including business interests, and I look forward to discussing the findings of the review with stakeholders in the spring.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Feed-in Tariffs

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): As the House will be aware, the Government's proposed changes to the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme are the subject of a judicial review. Specifically, the Government have been challenged regarding their proposal to apply new tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV) from 1 April 2012 to all new installations with an eligibility date on or after an earlier "reference date", which we proposed should be 12 December 2012.

Yesterday, the Court of Appeal handed down a negative judgment on the Government's appeal against an earlier decision by the High Court. We respectfully disagree with the judgment and are seeking permission to appeal to the Supreme Court. In the light of that, we cannot rule out the possibility that lower tariffs could be applied to installations which became eligible for FITs on or after the proposed reference date. It is important that consumers are aware of this.

The reason for appealing is that we want to maximise the number of installations that are possible within the available budget for FITs, rather than use available money to pay a higher tariff to half the number of installations. Solar PV can have a strong and vibrant future in UK and we want a lasting FITs scheme to support that future and jobs in the industry.

We have already put before Parliament draft licence modifications that (subject to the parliamentary process) would bring a 21p rate into effect from April for solar PV installations which become eligible for FITs on or after 3 March, to help reduce the pressure on the budget and provide as much certainty as we can for consumers and industry.

In the meantime, we want as far as possible to minimise the uncertainty for PV and other technologies eligible for support under FITs. We are therefore still intending to publish the phase 2 consultation by 9 February. This will include proposed tariffs for other FITs technologies and a set of reform proposals for the scheme. We are also intending to publish the Government's response to the other aspects of the phase 1 consultation that are not affected by the judicial review (namely the proposals on energy efficiency and for multi-installation tariff rates).

HEALTH

Nursing and Midwifery Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): Today, I have asked the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) to undertake a strategic review of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

With a view to further strengthening the NMC's leadership and governance, the Department also plans to consult on re-constituting the NMC's council to reduce its size. This is in line with a recommendation by the CHRE. The Department believes that this option now warrants consideration for the NMC.

On 11 March 2008, a debate took place in the House of Commons that raised concerns about the NMC and its performance, *Official Report*, columns 46-51WH. In response, the previous Government asked that the CHRE expedite its annual performance review of the body. The report found that the NMC was performing its statutory duties, but not to the standard that the public had the right to expect.

Following that report, the NMC agreed an action plan to address the concerns. A new council, made up of equal lay and registrant members was independently appointed from 1 January 2009. A new chair was appointed on the same date and a new chief executive took office later that year.

Subsequent reports by the CHRE have found some areas in which the NMC is improving. Regrettably, however, their most recent report on fitness to practise, published in November 2011, shows that the rate of improvement in this area falls below the standard that the public and registrants have the right to expect. That is why I have taken the decisions to commission the CHRE to conduct a wide-ranging review and to undertake a consultation on the constitution of the council.

The review will look at the NMC's organisational structure, resource allocation and operational management. It will establish what further action is needed to ensure that the NMC is effectively carrying out its statutory duties to promote high standards of conduct and practice in order to protect the public. The NMC supports the review, which will report to Ministers by early summer.

How the NMC council might best be constituted to provide strong, strategic oversight will be the subject of a public consultation and views from all stakeholders will be welcomed and taken into account.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Metal Theft

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am announcing today our intention to lay a Government amendment to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill to tackle metal theft.

The Government consider that legislation is the only sustainable, long-term solution to the growing menace of metal theft. There is an urgent need to make stealing metal less attractive to criminals, and tackling the stolen metal market will act as a significant deterrent.

That is why I can confirm that we will lay amendments to:

> create a new criminal offence to prohibit cash payments to purchase scrap metal; and
>
> significantly increase the fines for all offences under the existing Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 that regulates the scrap metal recycling industry.

Cash transactions for scrap metal are often completed without any proof of personal identification or proof that the individual legitimately owns the metal being sold. This leads to anonymous, low-risk transactions for those individuals who steal metal. In addition, the widespread use of cash facilitates poor record keeping by the metal recycling industry and can support tax evasion activity.

Today's announcement follows the commitment outlined in the national infrastructure plan published in November 2011 when the Government announced £5 million to establish a dedicated metal theft taskforce to enhance law enforcement activity in this area.

These amendments are part of our wider attempts to tackle all stages in the illegal trading of stolen scrap metal, and we shall bring forward further measures in due course.

TRANSPORT

City of Liverpool Cruise Terminal

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): The Department consulted last year on a proposal from Liverpool city council to alter the use of the City of Liverpool Cruise Terminal. The Department proposed to lift its objection to the removal of a grant condition that precludes use of the City of Liverpool Cruise Terminal for turnaround (start or end of cruise) operations, in return for the phased repayment of £5.3 million of grants. In the light of that consultation, I find that there are persuasive arguments that this level of repayment would be insufficient to reflect the adverse impact on competition with other ports. I therefore intend shortly to seek independent advice on a more appropriate figure.

I will report further to the House when I have reached a decision on the DFT objection. As Liverpool city council is aware, turnaround operations would also require state aid clearance from the European Commission.

Meanwhile, turnaround cruise operations continue to be permitted at Langton Dock in Liverpool.

National Policy Statement for Ports

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): On 29 November and 19 January, the House of Commons debated the national policy statement for ports which I laid for parliamentary approval on 24 October 2011. In the light of the satisfactory completion of that process I am pleased to inform the House that I am today designating it as a national policy statement under the provisions of section 5(1) of the Planning Act 2008, and laying copies before you as required by section 5(9)(b) of the same Act.

The planning system is a key to the future timely development of the country's port infrastructure. The designation of this policy statement marks a significant step forward, clarifying what is required to enable the successful major port developments that will be essential for trade and economic growth in the long term.

Street Works (Lane Rental)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): I am today publishing the outcome of the Government's consultation on proposals to allow trials of lane rental schemes to be undertaken by a small number of "pioneer" local authorities. Lane rental would involve the local authority applying a daily charge where street works obstruct traffic at the busiest times, providing a clear financial incentive for works to be carried out in less disruptive ways.

The Government are now inviting applications from authorities wishing to operate "pioneer" schemes. The guidance I am publishing today makes clear that the Government are prepared to approve up to three such schemes, in areas where the local authority has already sought to achieve the desired effect through other means, including through a road works permit scheme. Lane rental charges would need to be targeted on those streets where works cause the greatest disruption, and would need to provide a genuine opportunity for works promoters to avoid charges by carrying out their works at less disruptive times. Evidence from the performance of the "pioneer" schemes will inform future decisions on whether lane rental should play a wider role. Any revenues raised from lane rental will have to be used for purposes that will help to reduce the disruption caused by works—for example, research and development into disruption-saving techniques and technologies.

The guidance and other documents are now being published on the Department for Transport's website, and I will be laying the necessary regulations before Parliament shortly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

EU-Switzerland Agreement Opt-in Decision

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Government are committed to the free movement of workers within the European economic area and Switzerland, and also to protecting the sustainability and affordability of our welfare systems. As part of that commitment we want to ensure that non-active migrants from third countries outside the EU cannot gain access to welfare benefits if they have never worked or paid contributions in the United Kingdom.

The present decision replaced a Council decision of 6 December 2010, which cited the, in our view, correct legal base of article 79(2)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) which allows the EU to adopt measures concerning the free movement rights (in this case social security rights) of third country nationals. As article 79(2)(b) lies within title V of part III of TFEU, the Government considered whether it wanted to opt into the measures and we concluded that we did not. The content of the revised decision was identical to that of December 2010, but the legal base was changed to article 48 TFEU, on social security coordination for migrant workers in the EU.

A similar situation arose earlier in 2011 with proposals to amend the social security provisions of the analogous EEA agreement. Then, as now, we took the view that these proposals would have the effect of extending social security co-ordination rights to non-active persons moving between the EU and a third country (in this case, Switzerland); and that the revised legal base was inappropriate as it related only to free movement within the EU.

In negotiations, the UK expressed serious concerns over the legal base, particularly since there was an existing decision with identical content, and over the procedures under which the decision was being adopted. Negotiations were curtailed, and no justification was given for the change in legal base. The Council decision on the EU-Switzerland agreement was adopted in Council on 16 December 2011. The Government submitted a written minute statement setting out our objections.

In parallel with these processes, we considered across Government the options open to us, including legal action. To maintain a consistent approach in line with the action taken concerning the EEA agreement, we decided to take direct action in the European Court on the basis that the article 48 legal base is incorrect and that the Council decision is therefore invalid. In addition, we confirmed our earlier decision not to opt into the measure.

On the same day that the decision was adopted in Council, the UK lodged an application under article 263 TFEU with the European Court of Justice to annul the Council decision and a further application under article 278 TFEU to suspend the decision.

By taking legal action against the Commission in both the EEA and EU-Switzerland agreements, I believe the Government are able to underline an important point of principle concerning the interpretation of TFEU and this action demonstrates how seriously the Government take our obligation to protect our rights under the treaty.

Industrial Injuries Advisory Council

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): In accordance with the Cabinet Office's recent guidance on public bodies, which took effect from 1 April 2011, I have launched a review of the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC). This review will examine the council's functions and whether it should exist at arm's length from Government. If it does, the review will go on to examine whether the council's control and governance arrangements continue to meet the recognised principles of good corporate governance. I will inform the House of the outcome of the review when it is completed. IIAC is also due to be reviewed as a Scientific Advisory Committee, and so, in the interests of proportionality and value for money, these reviews are being combined.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 30 January 2012

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Foreign Affairs Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) was held on 23 January in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I attended.

The FAC was chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Ashton of Upholland. A provisional report of the meeting and all conclusions adopted can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN//foraff/127480.pdf

The agenda items covered were as follows:

Iran

Ministers agreed an extensive package of sanctions and accompanying conclusions (see link above) focusing on Iran's nuclear programme. The measures adopted include a phased embargo on Iranian oil; freezing the Central Bank of Iran's assets; and sanctions on the petrochemical sector, gold and precious metal and dual-use goods.

Following the meeting, the Foreign Secretary said:

> "Today's action demonstrates the EU's growing concern about Iran's nuclear programme, and our determination to increase peaceful, legitimate pressure on Iran to return to negotiations.
>
> It is action made necessary by Iran's defiance of six UN Security Council resolutions and its refusal to enter negotiations over its nuclear programme. Iran's recent decision to commence 20% enrichment at its underground site at Qom shows that it continues to choose a path of provocation. This is an enrichment programme that has no plausible civilian use, in a site that the Iranian authorities hoped to keep secret.
>
> We call again on Iran to answer the serious questions raised by the International Atomic Energy Agency, to adhere to UN Security Council Resolutions and to suspend its enrichment programme in accordance with them. Iran has it in its power to end sanctions by changing course and addressing the concerns of the international community. We are ready to talk at any point if Iran puts aside its preconditions. Today's sanctions show how serious EU member states are about preventing nuclear proliferation and pressing Iran to return to the negotiating table. We will urge other nations across the world to implement similar measures and to increase the impact of the measures the EU has adopted".

The Prime Minister made a statement on the Iranian sanctions with President Sarkozy and Chancellor Merkel on 23 January—see link below

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/iran-sanctions/

The Foreign Secretary made a response to an urgent question on Iran in Parliament on 24 January—see link below.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120124/debtext/120124-0001.htm#12012451000004

Burma

EU Ministers agreed conclusions (see link above) recognising the recent progress in Burma and suspending visa bans against the President, members of the Cabinet and speakers of the Houses of Parliament.

Drawing from his recent visit, the Foreign Secretary highlighted the changes in Burma as justifying these first steps towards enhancing the EU's engagement with the country. He stressed that the EU should only make any further responses following progress against our benchmarks: the release of remaining political prisoners, free and fair by-elections on 1 April, and credible steps towards resolving ethnic conflict.

Syria

Ministers agreed an 11th round of restrictive measures against Syria, which listed a further 22 individuals and eight entities. Ministers also agreed conclusions (see link above) which included expressions of concern over the Syrian Government's brutal crackdown, and a welcome for the Arab League's initiative to seek United Nations Security Council support for a political solution.

Speaking after the meeting, the Foreign Secretary said:

> "I welcome today's EU agreement to an 11th round of EU sanctions on Syria, targeting 22 individuals and 8 entities supporting the Syrian regime's appalling campaign of violence and repression against its own people.
>
> The UK has been a driving force behind these EU sanctions, working closely with other EU states. The sanctions demonstrate that the international community will identify and hold to account those responsible for abuses. Anyone involved in supporting the regime's repression should carefully consider their actions.
>
> The UK supports the Arab League's leadership in seeking to resolve the current crisis. We welcome its call for President Assad to leave power and allow a political transition. Assad's brutal repression means he has lost all legitimacy and should step aside, opening the way to the freedom demanded by the Syrian people. We will continue to increase the pressure on the Syrian regime in support of this goal."

Serbia / Kosovo

Discussion focused on a possible decision on Serbia's candidate status at the General Affairs Council on 27 February. I argued that the award of candidate status should be based on progress against the conditions agreed by the December European Council, in particular on regional co-operation.

Middle East Peace Process

Conclusions were agreed (see link above) supporting talks in Jordan, encouraging the parties to remain engaged and pressing Israel on settlements.

I briefed on President Abbas's visit to London of 16-17 January, where he had meetings with the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary.

Egypt

Ministers had a brief exchange on Egypt. On 22 January (the day before the FAC), the Foreign Secretary spoke about the historic change and opportunity following the opening of the Egyptian Parliament:

> "2011 was a year of historic change and opportunity for Egypt. The world was inspired by the courage of the Egyptian people in the revolution which began on 25 January, as they demonstrated for their dignity, their freedom and their rights.

What has followed has been a time of great hope and optimism, but also anxiety and uncertainty. Much has been achieved, but challenges remain. The historic elections for the People's Assembly, now almost complete, are an important step in building a prosperous and stable future for the new Egypt.

Britain will continue to be a close friend and strong partner to the Egyptian people as they consolidate the country's transition to democracy."

Belarus

Ministers agreed to broaden the criteria for subjecting persons and entities to targeted sanctions. This paves the way for the EU to impose travel bans and asset freezes on those responsible for any serious human rights violations or the repression of civil society and the democratic opposition, and on those people or entities supporting or benefiting from the current regime.

Sudan and South Sudan

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link above) expressing concern about the deteriorating and unpredictable situation between both countries.

Speaking on 22 January, the Foreign Secretary commented:

"I am gravely concerned at reports that South Sudan intends to shut down its oil production, and at Sudan's earlier decision to seize South Sudanese oil and prevent oil tankers from leaving its ports. Unilateral actions do nothing to further the prospects of the people of either country. I remind both governments of the statesmanship they showed last year in allowing the people of South Sudan to determine their own future. I call on them to show that same statesmanship now, by refraining from dangerous and destabilising actions of this sort, and by continuing to work with President Mbeki and the AU High Level Implementation Panel to negotiate a fair settlement."

Somalia

I updated Ministers on the forthcoming London conference on Somalia, and committed to follow up at a future FAC.

Religious Freedom

Italy initiated a short discussion about how the EU might update its approach to human rights and freedom of religion and beliefs in the context the recent bombings in Nigeria.

Common Security and Defence Policy

EU Ministers adopted without discussion conclusions on the activation of the EU Operations Centre for the horn of Africa (see link above).

I will continue to update Parliament on future Foreign and General Affairs Councils.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Remuneration and Conditions

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): This statement is about police pay and pensions. It provides the Government's response to the Police Arbitration Tribunal's findings on the recommendations in the part 1 report of Tom Winsor's "Independent Review of Police Officer and Staff Remuneration and Conditions" and the consultation on the proposed increase in pension contributions for police officers. Both issues have the potential to affect police officer remuneration and so the Government have considered them in the round.

On 30 March 2011 I laid a statement to respond to Tom Winsor's part 1 report of the review of remuneration and conditions of service for police officers and staff. I announced that I was directing the Police Negotiating Board and the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales to consider proposals within their remits for police officers in England and Wales as a matter of urgency.

The Police Negotiating Board was not able to reach agreement on several important proposals, and these were referred to the Police Arbitration Tribunal. The tribunal has now provided its recommendation and reasons, which I received on 9 January. The tribunal considered 18 recommendations from the Winsor part 1 report. The tribunal accepted 10 recommendations, modified five and made no award on three. I have today placed a copy of the Police Arbitration Tribunal report in the House of Commons Library.

I am grateful to the tribunal for its comprehensive and balanced consideration of these important issues. I have now considered its report thoroughly. I have decided to accept its recommendation and am minded to implement the package of reforms it has put forward in full.

I have also decided to accept the recommendation of the Police Negotiating Board on those recommendations that it agreed in principle, which were not referred to the PAT.

These reforms represent an important first step in modernising police pay and conditions so that they are fair to officers and to taxpayers. They include redistributing pay to officers who work unsocial hours, abolishing ineffective post-related payments (SPPs), suspending some elements of time-served pay and improving managers' ability to manage shift arrangements. However, as a Government we remain committed to further reform and to the principles set out in the Winsor part 1 report. The PAT recommended that a small number of recommendations should be deferred until part 2 has made longer-term recommendations on pay structures. We will consider these matters along with part 2, in light of the review's principles. In particular, the link between pay and skills remains a key principle and will be an important part of our consideration.

We have the best police service in the world, and these reforms will support the police in maintaining and improving the service that they give the public. In particular, they will support the objectives I set out in the review's terms of reference to:

use remuneration and conditions of service to maximise officer and staff deployment to front-line roles where their powers and skills are required;

provide remuneration and conditions of service that are fair to, and reasonable for, both the public taxpayer and police officers and staff;

enable modern management practices in line with practices elsewhere in the public sector and the wider economy.

In reaching this decision, I have had regard to a number of vital considerations, including:

the review's three key objectives as set out above;

the absolute necessity to reduce the fiscal deficit inherited from the previous Government and the part the police service must play in this and the role that changes to pay and conditions can play in protecting police jobs;

the need to maintain and improve the service provided to the public, taking account of a strong desire from the public to see more police officers and operational staff out on the front line of local policing and also recognising that there are less visible front-line roles that require policing powers and skills in order to protect the public;

the particular front-line role and nature of the Office of Constable, including the lack of a right to strike;

the Government's wider objectives for police reform, including the introduction of police and crime commissioners, the reduction of police bureaucracy and collaboration between police forces and with other public services;

the Government's wider policy of pay and pensions in the public sector;

the review's analysis of the value of officers' remuneration and conditions, as compared to other work forces;

parallel work by the police service to improve value for money, including collaboration with the private sector;

the impact of the recommendations on equality and diversity.

The service must be able to benefit from these reforms as soon as possible. I will therefore begin the necessary action to amend the Police Regulations 2003 and issue determinations under them shortly.

These reforms will make short-term improvements to police remuneration and conditions. Part 2 of the review will look at longer-term reform and is due to be published shortly.

Increases to police officer pension contributions

Turning now to police officer pensions, the Government want to ensure that public sector workers continue to have access to pension schemes that are among the very best available. However, reform is inevitable because people are living longer. Costs have risen by one third over the last 10 years to £32 billion. That is more than we spend on police, prison and the courts. These costs have generally fallen to the taxpayer. This is unfair and unaffordable, so it is also fair that we should ask public sector workers, including police officers, to contribute a bit more towards their pension.

That is why on 29 July 2011, I wrote to members of the Police Negotiating Board asking that they consider a proposal to increase police officer pension contribution rates. I am grateful to members of the Police Negotiating Board for considering the proposal and for the responses they provided.

Having considered the points raised alongside the recommendation from the recent Police Arbitration Tribunal, I have decided to implement the first year of increases in line with the proposal put to the Police Negotiating Board. This proposal meets the Government's objectives of protecting lower earners, asking higher earners to pay more and, by reducing the burden on those in the first two years of their career, minimising the rate of opt out.

The Government are committed to securing in full the savings announced at spending review 2010 from increases in employee pension contributions for the unfunded schemes for 2013-14 and 2014-15. I will ask the Police Negotiating Board to consider the proposed increases for these years in line with other public service schemes.

Again, I will begin the necessary action to amend the relevant regulations in order that the changes take effect in April of this year.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Turks and Caicos Islands (Progress Report)

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr Alan Duncan): Further to the written statement of the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham) of 9 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 40-41WS, setting out milestones that Ministers judged would have to be met before elections could take place in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), my hon. Friend and I wish to update the House.

The Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently jointly assess progress towards achieving the milestones to be the following:

Implementation of a new Turks and Caicos Islands constitution order, in support of recommendations of the commission of inquiry, which underpins good governance and sound public financial management.

A new constitution order was laid before Parliament in July 2011. In due course it will be brought into force by the Governor, after which elections must take place within 30 days.

Introduction of a number of new ordinances, including those making provision for: (i) the electoral process and regulation of political parties; (ii) integrity and accountability in public life; (iii) public financial management.

A legislative drafting team is working on numerous ordinances (locally enacted laws) relating to TCI Government business, including public accountability and financial management. Ordinances relating to elections, conduct of political parties and the Integrity Commission are also all currently being drafted. It is expected that drafting of a number of these should be completed by the end of March.

Establishment of robust and transparent public financial management processes to provide a stable economic environment and a strengthening of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government's capacity to manage their public finances.

Expenditure control has been largely re-established. Consolidated Government financial statements have been produced and submitted for audit for three of the past four years. Public reports on the state of the public finances are being issued quarterly. Rolling 13-week cash-flow forecasts are being produced. The Finance Ministry is being restructured to be more effective in managing the finances and newly appointed permanent secretaries will be firmly held to account for the sound management of finances in their Ministries.

Implementation of budget measures to put the Turks and Caicos Islands Government on track to achieve a fiscal surplus in the financial year ending March 2013.

New taxes and fee increases are expected to boost revenue by 20% compared to 2010-11, reaching US$164 million in 2011-12. But expenditure is expected to be higher than originally forecast leading to a budget deficit of US$26.8 million, which is considerably higher than the budgeted deficit of US$3 million. Additional revenue measures, a reduction in the size of the public service and revisions to the national health insurance plan have been put in place designed to bring the budget into surplus in 2012-13.

Implementation of a transparent and fair process for acquisition of belongership.

In November the TCI Consultative Forum launched a territory-wide consultation on the options for a new pathway to Turks and Caicos Islander status. The consultation process will finish in February. Initial reaction has been favourable. In the meantime, the backlog of permanent residence applications has been cleared.

Significant progress with the civil and criminal processes recommended by the Commission of Inquiry, and implementation of measures to enable these to continue unimpeded.

To date, over 900 acres of Crown land worth approximately US$150 million and US$2 million in cash has been recovered by the civil recovery team. In December 2011, 11 people, including four former Ministers, appeared in court to face criminal charges. They are due to appear before the Supreme Court in TCI in early February.

Implementation of a new Crown land policy.

Key decisions have been taken on this sensitive issue. A new policy to manage Crown land better in the future was announced in 2011 after discussion in the Consultative Forum and Advisory Council. The Crown land ordinance will be ready soon.

Substantial progress in the reform of the public service.

Plans have been drawn up to reduce the number of Ministries from nine to five by the end of March. Five new permanent secretaries have been recruited by rigorous open competition and have been appointed on fixed-term, performance-monitored contracts. Technical support to ensure the effectiveness of the new Ministries is under consideration. A voluntary severance scheme, which will reduce numbers in the public sector by 300-400, is due to be completed in February.

Summary

Much work has been done by the TCI Government and by the TCI public service, with the support of the United Kingdom Government. Assistance has also been provided by the European Union and Canada. Good progress is being made thanks to the commitment and hard work of the interim TCI Government and the people of TCI. However, there is much still to be done.

Finally, setbacks last year have adversely affected progress towards achieving a budget surplus. Our view remains that the UK Government will only be able to set a date for the elections when the milestones have been reached. It is not yet certain when we will be able to say that all of the milestones have been met, but the interim Government, with UK-financed technical assistance, is working hard to achieve them. We still hope that they will be met in time for elections to take place during 2012.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 31 January 2012

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Trade Policy (Opt-ins)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): I wish to inform the House that the Government have opted in to the following trade policy measures:

> (i) the Council decisions relating to the accession of Russia and Samoa to the World Trade Organisation;
>
> (ii) the Council decisions on the signing, provisional application and conclusion of a side agreement with Russia, preserving commitments in the current EU-Russia partnership and co-operation agreement, following Russia's accession to the WTO; and
>
> (iii) the Council decisions on the signing and conclusion of the trade agreement between the European Union and Colombia and Peru.

In each case, opting in will help to achieve the Government's trade policy objectives of expanding the WTO's membership and pursuing trade liberalisation through the conclusion of EU free trade agreements with third countries.

The Government have supported the accession of Russia to the WTO on the right terms. In acceding to the WTO, Russia will embrace a series of rules and commitments which form the foundation of an open, transparent and non-discriminatory global trading system and which will provide important guarantees for Russia and for the other WTO members. Accession to the WTO will bring Russia more firmly into the global economy and make it a more attractive place to do business.

The Government have supported the accession of least developed countries (LDCs) such as Samoa to the WTO. Becoming a member of the WTO will allow Samoa to benefit from WTO market access and global trading rules and the transparency of the WTO trading system. It will also be able to use the WTO dispute settlement mechanism to solve its differences with other members and fully participate in the ongoing negotiations to design the trade rules of the future.

The intention of the side agreement with Russia is to maintain commitments in maritime transport services and in mode 4—the temporary movement of natural persons for business purposes—offered by Russia to the EU bilaterally which would otherwise fall away on Russia's accession to the WTO.

The Government have supported the EU trade agreement with Colombia and Peru. This agreement will provide a range of benefits and reassurances for UK trade and investment in Peru and Colombia, including liberalisation of Peruvian and Colombian tariffs in key sectors for UK exports. It also includes a robust essential elements clause which covers both human rights and weapons of mass destruction, either of which can be invoked as reason for suspension of trade preferences.

In each case, the Council decisions extended in some way the UK's commitments in mode 4. These commitments are an integral part of our trade commitments at the WTO and of the trade agreement with Colombia and Peru. It is the presence of these commitments in the relevant instruments which triggers the UK Justice and Home Affairs opt-in.

In the case of the decisions on the accessions of Russia and Samoa and the related side agreement with Russia, I regret that it was not possible to allow the normal eight weeks for parliamentary scrutiny. This was due to the late conclusion of the negotiations, particularly with Russia, and the consequent late presentation by the Commission of the relevant draft Council decisions, while we still needed to agree positions in Council ahead of the WTO ministerial on 15 to 17 December.

TREASURY

Bilateral Loan (Ireland)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): I would like to update Parliament on the loan to Ireland.

Ireland completed the fourth quarterly review of its International Monetary Fund and European Union programme of financial assistance on 14 December 2011, at which point the utilisation period for the second instalment of the UK bilateral loan began.

Upon request, the Treasury has disbursed the second instalment of £403.37 million on 30 January 2012, with a maturity date of 30 July 2019.

HM Treasury will provide a further report to Parliament, as required under the Loans to Ireland Act 2010, at the end of this reporting period.

The Government believe that it is in our national interest that the Irish economy is successful and its banking system is stable. The Government continue to support Ireland's efforts to improve its economic situation.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Changes to the Building Regulations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Andrew Stunell): I am today announcing a consultation on changes to the building regulations regime in England. I believe the proposals, by seizing the opportunity to deregulate where possible while delivering even better levels of compliance and energy efficiency in buildings, will support our commitment ensuring that our buildings are safe and sustainable whilst helping to secure future growth and employment by means of a robust and effective bedrock of regulation.

Our proposals build on ideas and suggestions provided by our external partners. We will continue to engage with partners and will also take into account the contributions to the current red tape challenge exercise as we finalise these proposals.

The Government are committed to reducing the burden that falls on business as a result of regulation. The consultation we are publishing today includes proposals which provide annual net savings to business of £63.1 million:

> Proposals which respond to concerns about the burdens associated with part P (electrical safety—dwellings) and the costs which fall on electricians, local authorities and ultimately the consumer. We are consulting on two changes to reduce these costs while not undermining safety. First, we propose to extend the range of simple jobs that can be carried out without notifying building control. Secondly, we propose to allow DIY-ers and other unregistered installers to use a competent electrician rather than a building inspector to certify work.
>
> Clarifying the guidance on access statements in Approved Document M (access to and use of buildings) so as to promote a proportionate, risk-based approach to communicating compliance and avoid production of statements unnecessarily.
>
> Rationalising the guidance supporting parts M, K and N (access, protection from falling, collision and impact and glazing respectively) to address areas of conflict and overlap and which impose unnecessary costs on business.
>
> Making minor changes to the technical guidance in the Approved Document B (Fire safety) which seeks to restrict the spread of flame and heat release rate of the products used in lining ceilings, walls and other internal structures.
>
> In addition, given the consultation relates to the regulation of buildings, I am also using this opportunity to announce our intention to take forward the repeal of the fire protection provisions in the Local Acts. This will free-up businesses from the costs of fire protection requirements contained in some Local Acts which apply inconsistently across the country. The decision has been taken in the light of previous consultation which found no evidence to justify maintaining requirements which go beyond the necessary protection already afforded nationally through the building regulations.

The consultation includes proposals which deliver on our commitment to increase energy efficiency standards through part L (conservation of fuel and power) of the building regulations. For new buildings, the changes represent the next step towards zero carbon by tightening carbon dioxide compliance targets and for new homes they also introduce a new mandatory target for fabric energy efficiency and proposals to further improve compliance and as built performance. They also contain proposals to strengthen energy efficiency standards for existing properties and introduce requirements for additional—consequential—energy efficiency improvements where work is already planned, and the Green Deal is available to meet up-front costs. Given the current economic conditions, I have considered carefully the timing and ambition of these proposals and sought to tailor the proposals accordingly, for example, through the phased introduction of the part L provisions.

The Government also have a separate commitment to reduce the total regulatory burden on the house building industry during this spending review period. The energy efficiency improvements for new homes proposed therefore will need to be compensated by extra deregulatory proposals. Work is currently in hand to identify compensating regulatory "outs" and Government will set out where these will be found when they bring forward their response to this consultation. If sufficient "outs" cannot be found, the Government will adjust its final package accordingly.

We are consulting on two further changes. First, to align the existing guidance in Approved Document C (site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture) on radon safety with the most up-to-date radon maps thus ensuring that these safety provisions are targeted at the appropriate parts of the country. Secondly, to replace the currently-referenced structural standards in Approved Document A (Structure) with the updated British standards that are based on eurocodes.

Although the majority of the proposals relate to the technical building standards, I also propose a number of changes to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the building control system. The proposals will reduce costs and burdens by simplifying or improving processes for both local authorities and approved inspectors. We are helping building control to focus resources where they have the most impact by removing a number of statutory notification stages and introducing a service plan approach based on risk assessment and helping improve competition between building control bodies by removing the warranty link rule. We are also helping incentivise businesses to improve compliance by introducing additional voluntary mechanisms, such as extending the competent person self-certification schemes framework and introducing specialist third-party certification schemes; and introducing "Appointed Persons" to act as compliance co-ordinators on construction sites, as well as strengthening existing enforcement mechanisms.

The Government have also been considering whether there is a role for regulation to ensure suitable toilet and changing provisions for people with multiple and profound disabilities—often referred to as "Changing Places" toilets. Work undertaken so far suggests that a collaborative approach between external partners has the potential to deliver a better alternative to regulation. I have asked my officials to help facilitate this. However, I hold open the possibility of returning to the issue of regulation in the future should this not prove successful.

Secondly, I also wanted to explore further the case for regulation in relation to minimum standards for security in homes. Our initial analysis suggests that current industry practice provide a reasonable balance between the costs of security measures and the protection they provide. However, we will continue work to understand how applying higher standards locally without the need to regulate might work. We also intend to work with the Home Office and industry to develop a consumer-friendly, industry led rating system for security products.

Alongside the consultation proposals the Department for Communities and Local Government is also today publishing on its website nine impact assessments which provide information on the costs and benefits associated with the consultation proposals and the repeal of the Local Acts and seven research reports which have informed the proposals and impact assessments. I am placing copies of these documents, as well as the consultation documents, in the Library of the House.

Taken together, I believe the proposals being published today demonstrate our continuing commitment to be the greenest Government ever, helping business and consumers by reducing fuel bills and so helping reduce fuel poverty, whilst regulating proportionately to avoid imposing unnecessary costs and supporting growth and employment.

Local Government Finance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): I have today laid before the House the Local Government Finance Report (England) 2012-13 and the Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2012-13.

The Local Government Finance Report (England) 2012-13 establishes the amounts of revenue support grant and non-domestic rates to be paid to local authorities in 2012-13, and the basis of their distribution. A draft of this report was issued for consultation on 8 December 2011.

We received written responses from individual authorities, representative bodies and local authority groupings during the consultation, and Ministers met delegations from the Local Government Association, London Councils and a number of individual local authorities and their representatives.

Having considered the views of all those who have commented on the provisional settlement, I have decided to confirm the proposals set out for consultation on 8 December 2011.

The 2010 spending review set out how the coalition Government are tackling the budget deficit inherited from the last Administration and putting the public finances back in order. Every bit of the public sector needs to do its bit to help pay off the deficit, including local government, which accounts for a quarter of all public spending. Our decisions on 2011-12 and 2012-13 achieve fair and sustainable settlements for local government between different parts of the country, from urban to rural and metropolitan to shire.

We have continued to focus resources in a way that gives more weight to those parts of the country with the highest levels of need. These are often the areas which are most reliant on central Government grant. As in 2011-12, in calculating the grant distributions we have acted to insulate them by giving more weight to the levels of need within different areas. We have also grouped councils into four bands and set different 'floors' for their grant reductions. This continues to be a fairer and more progressive system of calculating grant than before.

This year's settlement means that the average spending power reduction for 2012-13 is limited to 3.3% (£34 per capita, or £75 per household), less than last year's comparable figure of 4.5%. We have also again made sure that no council will see their overall spending power fall by more than 8.8%) through the transfer of £20 million of my Department's budget to local government for 2012-13. This additional funding will smooth the impact of this year's settlement. Councils will have an average spending power of £2,186 per household (£972 per capita) at their disposal in 2012-13. Reflecting the fairness of the settlement, the average spending power per household in Hackney will be £3,050 (£1435 per capita) compared with £1,537 (£656 per capita) in Windsor and Maidenhead.

Many councils have successfully shown that they can deliver significant efficiencies, but there is still more to be done. Smarter procurement, reducing management and support services costs, greater transparency to cut waste, sharing services and tackling fraud can all deliver significant savings to help protect frontline services and taxpayers' interests. And to support councils the Localism Act will trigger the biggest transfer of power in a generation to local communities. The Local Government Finance Bill, currently before the House, will devolve further powers and flexibilities.

This settlement is supported by our extension of the successful council tax freeze scheme to a second year, building on the 2011-12 freeze offer taken up by all eligible councils. The offer being made to local authorities for 2012-13 is set out in the written statement of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 27-28WS. Council tax has more than doubled since 1997 and the freeze will offer real help to hardworking families and once again save up to £72 compared to a 5% rise in council tax on top of this year's saving of up to £72. By offering their local residents a council tax freeze again this year, councils will offer real help now with the cost of living to local residents, including pensioners, private sector workers and public sector workers.

The Localism Act also abolished Whitehall capping of council tax in England and allows local residents to approve or veto any council tax rise that exceeds principles endorsed by the House of Commons. The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2012-13 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has now determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2012-13, having considered representations following my written ministerial statement of 8 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 38-41WS.

A local authority will be required to seek the approval of their local electorate in a referendum if, compared with 2011-12, they set council tax increases that exceed:

4% for police authorities, and single purpose fire & rescue authorities;

3.75% for the City of London; and

3.5% for other principal authorities.

In the case of the Greater London authority, which sets two precepts, it will be required to hold a referendum if, compared with 2011-12, it sets increases that exceed either or both of:

4% for its adjusted relevant basic amount

3.75% for its unadjusted relevant basic amount

With the exception of the principle for the Greater London authority's unadjusted relevant basic amount, which the Secretary of State changed after careful consideration, these principles are the same as those that he was minded to set at the time of my written ministerial statement on 8 December 2011.

The Secretary of State will not determine principles for local precepting authorities for 2012-13. However, he wishes to make it clear that he intends to revisit this issue next year, having considered the extent to which local precepting authorities have exercised restraint in relation to council tax this year.

Of course, should all eligible local authorities choose to take up the new council tax freeze there will be no need for council tax referendums in 2012-13. However, any town hall that turns down the council tax freeze offer and tries to burden hardworking families and pensioners with an excessive increase will now have to seek their approval at the ballot box.

I shall be sending copies of the Local Government Finance Report to all local authorities in England, and making available full supporting information on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk?finance?1213/grant.htm

Copies of both reports, and related tables showing each authority's allocation of formula grant and other supporting material, have been placed in the Library of the House.

EDUCATION

Key Stage 4 Performance Tables

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): Professor Alison Wolfs' wide-ranging review was published on 3 March 2011. She found that too many young people are studying courses that offer no basis for progression to further study or to meaningful employment. Some of these courses "counted" in Performance Tables as being equivalent to a number of GCSEs and were being taken at the expense of core subjects, valued most by employers, colleges and universities.

Professor Wolf concluded that incentives provided through the school performance tables were, at least in part, responsible for this situation and recommended that the tables be reformed. The Government accepted these recommendations. In future, school performance tables will:

> include only those qualifications that are of a high quality, are rigorous and enable progression to a range of study and employment opportunities; and
>
> count each of those qualifications as equivalent to one GCSE only and exclude qualifications that are smaller than GCSEs.

The Department for Education consulted extensively on the characteristics and process to be used to identify qualifications for inclusion in school performance tables. The Department's response to this consultation, setting out Technical Guidance for awarding organisations, was published on 27 October 2011. Today the Department will announce which of the qualifications awarding organisations submitted for review meet the new standards. These are listed below.

In addition to GCSEs, established iGCSEs, and AS level qualifications and their equivalents, which will continue to be included in Performance Tables, a further 125 qualifications have also been approved as meeting the required standards. Of these, 70 are at level 2 and are included in the 5+A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and Maths measure of performance. The remaining 55 are at level 1. The latter will not be included within this measure, but do count towards a number of other indicators.

These changes will apply to courses taught from September 2012 and first reported in school Performance Tables in 2014.

The reforms represent a significant change to the measurement of school performance. The number of non-GCSE/iGCSE qualifications that will count in the 2014 Performance Tables will fall by 96%.

Focusing on a core of high quality and rigorous qualifications will also free up curriculum time. Teachers will have more freedom to exercise professional judgment in developing a broad and balanced curriculum and ensuring that this reflects the particular needs and abilities of their pupils. A wide range of other qualifications have been accredited by Ofqual for teaching to 14 to 16 year olds and approved for use in schools.

In March 2012, the Department will publish an updated version of this list. This is likely to include a small number of additional qualifications accredited by Ofqual by the beginning of March. An equalities impact assessment will be published alongside this. Both will be subject to annual review and the list of qualifications that will be included in the 2015 Performance Tables will be published in November 2012.

Key Stage 4 Performance Tables: Inclusion of 14-16 Qualifications From 2014

From 2014, and in line with the Technical Guidance published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2011, the key stage 4 Performance Tables will be restricted to qualifications that are high quality, rigorous and enable progression to a range of study and employment opportunities. Qualifications will only be included if they are the same size as a GCSE or larger and each qualification will count for one in the tables irrespective of its size.

The changes apply to courses taught from September 2012 and schools are advised to take these changes into account when planning their timetables.

Schools may offer qualifications that are not included in the Performance Tables and in all cases should act as they judge to be in the best interests of their students.

Qualifications which will count in Key Stage 4 Performance Tables

The Level 1 qualifications will count towards all existing Performance Tables' measures except for 5+A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths, the English Baccalaureate and A*-C English and maths measure.

The Level 2 qualifications listed will count towards all existing Performance Tables' measures[1].

The Level 3 qualifications listed, if taken by the end of KS4, will count towards all existing Performance Tables' measures except for the English Baccalaureate and A*-C English and maths measure.

Full course GCSEs (at Level 1 and 2)
Established iGCSEs[2] (at Level 1 and 2)
AS levels (at Level 3)
Level 3 Asset Language Ladder qualifications
Level 3 Free-Standing Maths Qualifications (FSMQs)
Graded music examinations at grade 6 and above (at Level 3)

a) Qualifications which fully demonstrate the characteristics set out in DFE Guidance

Qualification Title
Level 2 Principal Learning in Construction and the Built Environment
Level 2 Principal Learning in Creative and Media
Level 2 Principal Learning in Engineering
Level 2 Principal Learning in IT
Level 2 Principal Learning in Society, Health and Development

Due to the nature of Principal Learning qualifications, their inclusion is not specific to individual awarding organisations.

b) Qualifications that will be included in the 2014 Performance Tables, but will be subject to a review of their performance[3]. These qualifications may or may not be included in Performance Tables in future years, depending on the outcome of the review.

QAN	*Qualification title*	*Review date*
	Level 2 Principal Learning in Business, Administration and Finance	Autumn 2012
	Level 2 Principal Learning in Environmental and Land-based studies	Autumn 2012
	Level 2 Principal Learning in Hair and Beauty Studies	Autumn 2012
	Level 2 Principal Learning in Hospitality	Autumn 2012
	Level 2 Principal Learning in Manufacturing and Product Design	Autumn 2012
	Level 2 Principal Learning in Public Services	Autumn 2012
	Level 2 Principal Learning in Retail Business	Autumn 2012
	Level 2 Principal Learning in Sport and Active Leisure	Autumn 2012
	Level 2 Principal Learning in Travel and Tourism	Autumn 2012
500/ 9480/4	AQA Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Use of Mathematics[4]	Autumn 2014
600/ 2123/8	AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics	Autumn 2013
500/ 6787/4	WJEC Level 2 Certificate in Latin Language	Autumn 2012
500/ 6788/6	WJEC Level 2 Certificate in Latin Language and Roman Civilisation	Autumn 2012
500/ 6791/6	WJEC Level 2 Certificate in Latin Literature	Autumn 2012
600/ 1999/2	AQA Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in English Language	Autumn 2013
600/ 2190/1	AQA Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in English Literature	Autumn 2013
600/ 1358/8	WJEC Level 1/ Level 2 Certificate in English Language	Autumn 2013
600/ 1822/7	*WJEC Level 1/ Level 2 Certificate in English Literature*	Autumn 2013

c) Qualifications that will be included in Performance Tables for the final time in 2014[5]. These qualifications are being redeveloped and the new versions would be included in Performance Tables if they fully demonstrate the required characteristics.

QAN	*Qualification title*
500/ 6242/6	BCS Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Extra) (ITQ) (QCF)
500/ 6175/6	BCS Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills (ITQ) (QCF)
500/ 1887/5	CACHE Level 2 Award in Child Care and Education
500/ 6724/2	City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate for IT Users (ITQ) (QCF)
600/ 0880/5	City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Engineering (QCF)
500/ 6760/6	City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma for IT Users (ITQ) (QCF)
500/ 1729/9	City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma for Software Developers
501/ 1859/6	City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in ICT Systems and Principles for IT Professionals (QCF)
500/ 7595/0	EAL Level 2 Diploma in Engineering Technology (QCF)
500/ 7453/2	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Applied Science (QCF)
500/ 6671/7	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Applied Science (QCF)
500/ 7105/1	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Art and Design (QCF)
500/ 7104/X	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Art and Design (QCF)
500/ 6745/X	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Business (QCF)
500/ 6789/8	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Business (QCF)

QAN	*Qualification title*
500/ 7239/0	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Construction (QCF)
500/ 7240/7	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Construction (QCF)
500/ 7880/X	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Creative Media Production (QCF)
500/ 7930/X	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Creative Media Production (QCF)
500/ 7577/9	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Engineering (QCF)
500/ 7576/7	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Engineering (QCF)
500/ 8217/6	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (QCF)
500/ 8223/1	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF)
500/ 9550/X	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in IT (QCF)
500/ 9552/3	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in IT (QCF)
500/ 7774/0	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Music (QCF)
500/ 7775/2	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Music (QCF)
500/ 7141/5	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (QCF)
500/ 7143/9	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts (QCF)
500/ 7658/9	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Sport (QCF)
500/ 7660/7	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Sport (QCF)
500/ 8016/7	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism (QCF)
500/ 8060/X	Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Travel and Tourism (QCF)
100/ 5326/8	Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications for IT Users
100/ 5327/X	Edexcel Level 2 Diploma in Digital Applications for IT Users
100/ 6442/4	Edexcel Level 2 Extended Certificate in Digital Applications for IT Users
500/ 8379/X	NCFE Level 2 Award in Graphic Design (QCF)
500/ 8988/2	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Art and Design (QCF)
500/ 8456/2	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Interactive Media (QCF)
500/ 9918/8	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Performance Skills (QCF)
501/ 1226/0	NCFE Level 2 Extended Certificate in Music Technology (QCF)
500/ 8529/3	OCR Level 2 Certificate for Creative iMedia (QCF)
500/ 8531/1	OCR Level 2 Diploma for Creative iMedia (QCF)
500/ 6743/6	OCR Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills (ITQ) (QCF)

QAN	*Qualification title*
	OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Business[6]
	OCR Level 2 National Award in Business[6]
	OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Health and Social Care[6]
	OCR Level 2 National Award in Health and Social Care[6]
	OCR Level 2 National Certificate in ICT[6]
	OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT[6]
	OCR Level 2 National First Certificate in ICT[6]
	OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Science[6]
	OCR Level 2 National Award in Science[6]
	OCR Level 2 National Award in Sport[6]
	OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Sport[6]
501/ 0598/X	RSL Level 2 Certificate for Music Practitioners (QCF)
501/ 0665/X	RSL Level 2 Extended Certificate for Music Practitioners (QCF)
500/ 8073/8	TLM Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills in Open Systems and Enterprise (ITQ)

Qualifications which are approved but will not be counted in the 5+A-C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and Maths measure*[7].

a) Precursors to Level 2 qualifications which fully demonstrate the characteristics set out in DfE Guidance.

Qualification title
Level 1 Principal Learning in Construction and the Built Environment
Level 1 Principal Learning in Creative and Media
Level 1 Principal Learning in Engineering
Level 1 Principal Learning in IT
Level 1 Principal Learning in Society, Health and Development

Due to the nature of Principal Learning qualifications, their inclusion is not specific to individual awarding organisations.

b) Qualifications that will be included in performance tables for the final time in 2014[8]. These qualifications are being redeveloped and the new versions would be included in Performance Tables if they fully demonstrate the required characteristics.

QAN	*Qualification title*
600/ 3089/6	AQA Level 1 Certificate in French (FCSE) Full Course[9]
600/ 3092/6	AQA Level 1 Certificate in German (FCSE) Full Course[9]
600/ 3155/4	AQA Level 1 Certificate in Spanish (FCSE) Full Course[9]

c) Precursors to Level 2 qualifications that will be included in 2014 Performance Tables. The linked Level 2 qualifications are either subject to a review of their performance[10] or are being redeveloped so that the new versions fully demonstrate the required characteristics[11]. The future inclusion of the Level 1 precursor is dependent on the future inclusion of the Level 2 qualification.

Qualification title
Level 1 Principal Learning in Business, Administration and Finance
Level 1 Principal Learning in Environmental and Land-based studies
Level 1 Principal Learning in Hospitality
Level 1 Principal Learning in Manufacturing and Product Design
Level 1 Principal Learning in Public Services
Level 1 Principal Learning in Retail Business
Level 1 Principal Learning in Sport and Active Leisure
Level 1 Principal Learning in Travel and Tourism

QAN	*Qualification title*
500/ 6177/X	BCS Level 1 Certificate in IT User Skills (Digital Creator) (ITQ) (QCF)
600/ 0879/9	City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in Engineering (QCF)
501/ 0075/0	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Applied Science (QCF)
501/ 0073/7	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Applied Science (QCF)
500/ 6540/3	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Art and Design (QCF)
500/ 6607/9	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Art and Design (QCF)
500/ 4991/4	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Business Administration (QCF)
500/ 6536/1	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Business Administration (QCF)
500/ 6591/9	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Construction (QCF)
500/ 6668/7	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Construction (QCF)
500/ 8423/9	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Creative Media Production (QCF)
500/ 8544/X	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Creative Media Production (QCF)
501/ 0305/2	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Engineering (QCF)
500/ 9859/7	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Engineering (QCF)
500/ 5458/2	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Health and Social Care (QCF)
500/ 6642/0	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF)
600/ 1238/9	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Introduction to the Travel and Tourism Industry (QCF)[12]
600/ 1231/6	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Introduction to the Travel and Tourism Industry (QCF)[12]
500/ 6606/7	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Performing Arts (QCF)
500/ 6669/9	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Performing Arts (QCF)
500/ 4989/6	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Sport and Active Leisure (QCF)
500/ 6495/2	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure (QCF)
100/ 5323/2	Edexcel Level 1 Certificate in Digital Applications for IT Users
100/ 6441/2	Edexcel Level 1 Extended Certificate in Digital Applications for IT Users
100/ 5324/4	Edexcel Level 1 Diploma in Digital Applications for IT Users
500/ 5959/2	NCFE Level 1 Award in Creative Craft using Art and Design (QCF)
500/ 8454/9	NCFE Level 1 Award in Graphic Design (QCF)
500/ 8053/2	NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Interactive Media (QCF)
501/ 1234/X	NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Music Technology (QCF)

QAN	*Qualification title*
500/ 9177/3	NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Performance Skills (QCF)
500/ 8533/5	OCR Level 1 Certificate for Creative iMedia (QCF)
500/ 8534/7	OCR Level 1 Diploma for Creative iMedia (QCF)
500/ 6742/4	OCR Level 1 Diploma in IT User Skills (ITQ) (QCF)
501/ 0656/9	RSL Level 1 Certificate for Music Practitioners (QCF)
501/ 0655/7	RSL Level 1 Extended Certificate for Music Practitioners (QCF)
500/ 8080/5	TLM Level 1 Certificate in IT User Skills in Open Systems and Enterprise (ITQ) (QCF)
500/ 6787/4	WJEC Level 1 Certificate in Latin Language
500/ 6788/6	WJEC Level 1 Certificate in Latin Language and Roman Civilisation
500/ 6791/6	WJEC Level 1 Certificate in Latin Literature

[1] Where a performance measure requires achievement of specific qualifications in specific subjects, e.g. percentage achieving 5 or more GCSEs including English and maths, pupils will need to achieve those qualifications and subjects.

[2] Accredited versions of qualifications which were being offered as "iGCSE" and were being taken in independent and/or international schools before June 2010.

[3] Reviews of performance will examine evidence of pupil take up and progression in education or employment.

[4] Approved subject to Section 96 approval by the DFE for teaching pre-16 (pending).

[5] Qualifications will have demonstrated all required characteristics except one or more of those that relate to assessment.

[6] Approved subject of Ofqual accreditation (pending).

[7] They will be included within other performance measures e.g. 5+A*-G. These are Level 1 qualifications which either demonstrate the characteristics in their own right or are precursors of Level 2 qualifications which are included.

[8] Qualifications will have demonstrated all required characteristics except one or more of those that relate to assessment.

[9] Approved subject to Section 96 approval by the DFE for teaching pre-16 (pending).

[10] Reviews of performance will examine evidence of pupil take up and progression in education or employment.

[11] Qualifications will have demonstrated all required characteristics except one or more of those that relate to assessment.

[12] Approved subject to Section 96 approval by the DFE for teaching pre-16 (pending).

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Transmission Power Cable Costs

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) has today published a comprehensive study on the whole-life costs of installing new high voltage transmission lines under the ground, under the sea and over ground.

This study has been undertaken at the Government's request in order to provide an authoritative and independent point of reference for the Infrastructure Planning Commission in evaluating planning applications for new transmission connections and reinforcements.

Research and production of the study has been carried out by international engineering consultancy Parsons Brinckerhoff, in association with Cable Consulting International. It draws on a broad range of data from manufacturers, installers, operators and other parties. National Grid has funded the work, and the IET has provided independent quality assurance.

Main findings are as follows:

the cost of new power infrastructure varies considerably but installing new power circuits underground is always more expensive than installing overhead lines;

the study also identifies factors that have an impact on costs—such as terrain, distances and energy loss;

the study's remit purely relates to engineering costs, although it does acknowledge the aesthetic, human and environmental impacts, it makes no analysis of these areas.

Over the coming years major transmission reinforcements will be needed to connect Britain's new power stations. Many people are concerned about the impact that new transmission lines can have on the landscape and on local communities, and it is therefore essential that these reinforcements are taken forward on the basis of informed discussion and the best available knowledge. The Government welcome this authoritative study which will provide a well-informed and objective baseline when considering the costs and impacts of different transmission line solutions.

Copies of the study have been placed in Libraries of both House and can be obtained from the IET website. www.theiet.org/factfiles/transmission.cfm.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Canal & River Trust (Government Funding)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): I am pleased to announce to the House that I have concluded a long-term funding deal with the trustees of the Canal & River Trust (CRT), which will, subject to parliamentary approval, take over the ownership and management of the inland waterways in England and Wales from British Waterways later this year.

The Government have already announced that the £460 million commercial property endowment historically built up from surplus network property and used by British Waterways to fund the network infrastructure will be transferred to CRT for the same purposes, along with the rest of the network in England and Wales. In order to get the Canal & River Trust off to the best possible start, DEFRA will also commit grant funding of some £800 million over the next 15 years (from 2012-13 to the end of 2026-27).

The funding deal has the following major components:

A core grant of £39 million per year (index linked to inflation from 2015-16 onwards).

From 2015-16, an additional grant of £10 million per year (reduced gradually over the last five years of the grant agreement), conditional on the Canal & River Trust's performance against three standards:

satisfactory condition of principal assets,

satisfactory condition of towpaths, and

satisfactory flood risk management measures.

A £25 million one-off grant to be spread across the next few months, and a capped "last resort" Government guarantee in relation to the historic public sector pension liability.

> A review will take place in 2021-22 to examine the case for the Government's funding of public benefits from the waterways beyond 2026-27.
>
> The CRT will also be required to publish annually a range of data about the public benefits it delivers, to enable stakeholders and the public to hold the charity to account.

This is a very good deal for the taxpayer, the waterways, the boaters and enthusiasts who care so passionately about them, and for the many millions of people who visit them every year. The trustees have welcomed the deal, which provides a firm financial footing for the trust. The trust will seize new opportunities to generate revenue through donations, charitable grants and legacies, increased borrowing powers, efficiencies and volunteering activity.

The Canal & River Trust will inherit British Waterways' responsibilities for maintaining heritage sites, wildlife habitats and open spaces, so that all can enjoy them for generations to come. It will help realise public benefits such as green travel to work, health and well-being, support to the inner cities and rural regeneration.

This deal is a further expression of our commitment to building up the big society. The new charity will involve local communities and volunteers in shaping the future of our waterways.

Subject to satisfactory conclusion of outstanding issues, the Government plan to lay the order to transfer statutory functions from British Waterways to the Canal & River Trust in Parliament at the end of February. Subject to Parliament's approval, we hope to see the new charity launched in June.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan Progress Report (December 2011)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the thirteenth progress report on developments in Afghanistan since November 2010.

At the Bonn conference the international community agreed in principle to provide financial support to Afghanistan for the decade after transition in 2014. For their part, the Government of Afghanistan committed to continue to progress with vital economic and governance reform. In support of this, the UK is helping local government deliver better services for local people by assisting provincial governors' offices with management training, and by supporting the implementation of development projects identified by communities in previously insecure districts. The new DFID funded Afghanistan Business Innovation Fund opened in December, inviting proposals for business ideas that will create sustainable jobs.

Nationwide the security situation in Afghanistan is improving and 2011 marked the first time that year-on-year violence levels decreased since the International Security Assistance Force mission was expanded in 2006. This nationwide view of Afghanistan, while positive and a good indication of overall progress, should not distract our attention from a varied regional picture.

In 2011, recorded violence levels fell significantly in Regional Command South West, the UK's area of operations. However, these gains have been tempered by a notable increase in security incidents in the east of the country and a smaller rise in violence levels in Regional Command South. The uneven regional picture reminds us that the insurgency remains resilient, but they are also under significant and sustained pressure in the areas where the Afghan National Security Forces and ISAF are focusing their efforts. In this context we have seen the insurgency increasingly deploy less conventional methods to execute their campaign: the use of IEDs has increased and they have focused their efforts on a series of high-profile assassinations and 'spectacular' attacks intended to undermine local perceptions of security. From a security perspective 2012 is likely to see further challenges as the insurgency attempts to regain its momentum. However, our resolve to achieve our stated aims in Afghanistan endures, and we will continue to work alongside the Afghans to consolidate the gains of 2011.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Grant Report in England and Wales 2012-13

The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice (Nick Herbert): My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, has today laid before the House the Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2012-13 (HC 1797). The report sets out my right hon. Friend's determination for 2012-13 of the aggregate amount of grant that she proposes to pay under section 46(2) of the Police Act 1996, and the amount to be paid to the Greater London authority for the Mayor's office for policing and crime.

At the time the provisional police grant report was laid on 8 December 2011, respondents to the subsequent consultation were asked specifically to comment on whether a top-slice of capital grant should be made in order to fund the National Police Air Service. The responses to the consultation have been carefully considered, and the decision has been taken to top-slice the police capital grant in order to provide the necessary funding for the service.

After careful consideration of the consultation responses, all other funding allocations set out in my written ministerial statement of 8 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 50-55WS, remain unchanged.

In addition to this, a one-off additional payment of £90 million will be made to the Mayor's office for policing and crime in 2012-13. This payment will help to maintain operational capabilities while policing the Olympics, Paralympics, World Pride and the Queen's diamond jubilee. This funding will help to maintain resilience during this period and comes on top of the police spending review settlement.

Table 1: Police revenue funding 2012-13

	2012-13 *£m*
Total Formula Funding:	
Comprising:	
Home Office Police Main Grant	4,251
National, International and Capital City Grant (MOPC only)	189
DCLG General Grant	3,213
Of which council tax (11-12) freeze grant	*75*
WAG General Grant	151
Total Home Office Specific Grants:	
Comprising:	
Welsh Top-up	13
Neighbourhood Policing Fund (NPF)	338
Counter Terrorism Specific Grant	564
PCC Elections	50*
PFI Grant	54
Total Government Funding	8,830**
% cash change in Total Government Funding	*-5%*

*Any additional funding required will be provided from outside the police settlement

**This includes a small amount of funding that will form part of a contingency fund, which is not shown in the table above.

Table 2: Division of police capital between funding streams

	2012-13 *£m*	*2013-14* *£m*	*2014-15* *£m*
Capital Grant	118	106	109
National Police Air Service	11	13	10
Special Grant Capital	1	1	1
Total	*130*	*120*	*120*

Table 3: Revenue allocations for England and Wales 2012-13

Police Authority/ PCC	*HO Core* *£m*	*NPF* *£m*	*Welsh Top-up* *£m*	*WG* *£m*	*CLG (including CT freeze)* *£m*
Avon & Somerset	112.7	7.3	0.0	0.0	62.5
Bedfordshire	40.8	2.7	0.0	0.0	28.2
Cambridgeshire	50.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	29.0
Cheshire	64.3	4.8	0.0	0.0	51.6
City of London	30.2	1.3	0.0	0.0	27.3
Cleveland	47.5	2.9	0.0	0.0	44.4
Cumbria	30.5	2.3	0.0	0.0	34.9
Derbyshire	65.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	44.5
Devon & Cornwall	110.5	7.5	0.0	0.0	70.3
Dorset	42.4	3.2	0.0	0.0	21.3
Durham	44.3	3.3	0.0	0.0	42.4
Dyfed-Powys	32.1	1.6	6.3	15.7	0.0
Essex	109.5	7.2	0.0	0.0	63.6
Gloucestershire	36.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	22.2
Greater London authority	1,051.6	101.3	0.0	0.0	854.5
Greater Manchester	230.2	17.3	0.0	0.0	209.8
Gwent	44.7	2.9	0.0	33.0	0.0
Hampshire	128.1	7.6	0.0	0.0	72.4
Hertfordshire	73.9	5.3	0.0	0.0	43.5
Humberside	69.5	4.7	0.0	0.0	53.3
Kent	109.5	8.0	0.0	0.0	78.8
Lancashire	105.7	8.2	0.0	0.0	89.2
Leicestershire	67.3	4.7	0.0	0.0	46.4
Lincolnshire	39.8	2.9	0.0	0.0	24.2
Merseyside	127.0	9.8	0.0	0.0	127.6
Norfolk	53.7	3.9	0.0	0.0	32.4
North Wales	46.2	3.3	6.5	24.8	0.0
North Yorkshire	43.9	3.4	0.0	0.0	31.3
Northamptonshire	45.2	3.0	0.0	0.0	28.1
Northumbria	115.0	8.9	0.0	0.0	120.1
Nottinghamshire	80.7	5.5	0.0	0.0	54.9
South Wales	92.7	6.7	0.0	77.6	0.0
South Yorkshire	102.7	6.6	0.0	0.0	90.1
Staffordshire	68.6	4.5	0.0	0.0	47.8
Suffolk	42.8	3.1	0.0	0.0	26.5
Surrey	65.0	4.4	0.0	0.0	35.7
Sussex	101.1	7.2	0.0	0.0	64.2
Thames Valley	147.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	87.4
Warwickshire	32.7	2.8	0.0	0.0	19.8
West Mercia	68.6	5.3	0.0	0.0	51.1
West Midlands	252.9	15.9	0.0	0.0	213.5
West Yorkshire	179.3	14.3	0.0	0.0	143.4
Wiltshire	38.7	2.8	0.0	0.0	24.8
Total England & Wales	*4,440.1*	*338.0*	*12.8*	*151.0*	*3,213.2*

Table 4: Capital allocations for England and Wales 2012-13 to 2014-15

Police Authority/ PCC	*2012-13* *£m*	*2013-14* *£m*	*2014-15* *£m*
Avon & Somerset	2.6	2.3	2.4
Bedfordshire	1.1	1.0	1.0
Cambridgeshire	1.3	1.2	1.2
Cheshire	1.7	1.5	1.5
City of London	0.9	0.8	0.9
Cleveland	1.3	1.2	1.2
Cumbria	0.9	0.8	0.9
Derbyshire	1.6	1.4	1.5
Devon & Cornwall	2.8	2.5	2.6
Dorset	1.1	1.0	1.0
Durham	1.3	1.1	1.2
Dyfed-Powys	0.8	0.7	0.8
Essex	2.4	2.2	2.2
Gloucestershire	1.0	0.9	0.9

Table 4: Capital allocations for England and Wales 2012-13 to 2014-15

Police Authority/ PCC	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
	£m	*£m*	*£m*
Greater Manchester	6.0	5.4	5.5
Gwent	1.2	1.0	1.1
Hampshire	3.0	2.7	2.8
Hertfordshire	1.5	1.4	1.4
Humberside	1.8	1.6	1.7
Kent	2.8	2.5	2.5
Lancashire	2.8	2.5	2.6
Leicestershire	1.8	1.6	1.6
Lincolnshire	1.0	0.9	0.9
Merseyside	3.5	3.1	3.2
Metropolitan	31.3	28.1	29.0
Norfolk	1.4	1.2	1.3
North Wales	1.2	1.1	1.1
North Yorkshire	1.1	1.0	1.0
Northamptonshire	1.1	1.0	1.0
Northumbria	3.3	2.9	3.0
Nottinghamshire	1.9	1.7	1.8
South Wales	2.5	2.3	2.3
South Yorkshire	2.8	2.5	2.6
Staffordshire	1.8	1.6	1.6
Suffolk	1.1	1.0	1.0
Surrey	1.6	1.4	1.5
Sussex	2.3	2.1	2.2
Thames Valley	3.8	3.4	3.5
Warwickshire	1.1	1.0	1.0
West Mercia	1.9	1.7	1.7
West Midlands	6.3	5.7	5.9
West Yorkshire	4.6	4.2	4.3
Wiltshire	1.0	0.9	1.0
Total England & Wales	*118.2*	*106.0*	*109.3*

UK Border Agency (Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Following the resignation of Brodie Clark, a senior UK Border Agency official, last November, I asked John Vine, the Independent Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency, to carry out an independent investigation into border checks conducted by the UK Border Agency. Mr Vine has asked for more time to complete his investigation. Once I have received his final report I will update the House after constituency recess on both the findings of the report and on the action the Government will take.

JUSTICE

Inquests (Service Personnel Overseas)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I wish to make the latest of our quarterly statements to the House giving details of the inquests of service personnel who have died overseas. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to all of our service personnel who have served, or are now serving, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To the families of the service personnel who have given their lives for their country, in connection with the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, we would like to convey our sincere condolences and particularly to those families of the 12 service personnel who have died since our last statement in October. These families, and all the bereaved families who have lost loved ones during these operations, continue to be in our thoughts.

Today we are announcing the current status of inquests conducted by the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, the Oxfordshire coroner, and other coroners in England and Wales. This statement gives the position at 24 January 2012.

To supplement this statement I have placed tables in the Libraries of both Houses. These tables outline the status of all current cases and show the date of death in each case. They also include information about cases where a board of inquiry or a service inquiry has been held.

Our Departments will continue to work closely together to improve our processes and continue the Government's support for coroners who are conducting inquests into operational deaths. With that in mind, we wish to express further thanks to all the coroners, and their staff, for their dedicated work as well as to all those who provide support and information, both throughout the inquest process and afterwards.

Since October 2007 both Departments have provided additional resources to ensure that there is no backlog of operational inquests. These resources have been provided to the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, Mr David Ridley, as prior to 1 September 2011 repatriation of service personnel took place within his district at RAF Lyneham. We are also providing additional resources to the Oxfordshire coroner, Mr Nicholas Gardiner, as repatriation ceremonies for those killed on operations overseas now take place within his district at RAF Brize Norton.

Current status of inquests

Since the last statement there have been 17 inquests into the deaths of service personnel on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

A total of 515 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including 19 service personnel who died in the UK of their injuries. In three further cases, no formal inquest was held. In two of these cases the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident. In the third case, where the serviceman died of his injuries in Scotland, it was decided not to hold a fatal accident inquiry.

Open inquests

Fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan

There are currently 57 open inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Twenty-one of these involve deaths in the last six months.

The Wiltshire and Swindon coroner has retained 14 of the remaining open inquests, the Oxfordshire coroner has retained six of the open inquests, and 29 are being conducted by coroners closer to the next-of-kin. Hearing dates have been set in 11 cases.

There is one remaining open inquest into deaths from operations in Iraq.

Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

Eight inquests remain to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries. Two hearing dates have been set. The remaining six cases will be listed for hearing when the continuing investigations are completed.

We shall continue to inform the House of progress with the remaining inquests.

TRANSPORT

Local Major Transport Schemes (Consultation)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): Today I am launching a consultation paper to take forward discussions for deciding a new devolved system for prioritising and funding local major transport schemes for the next spending review period—schemes which have cost over £5 million.

The previous Government's regional funding allocation process failed to give local people and communities proper transparency for decisions, and control over spending—investment decisions were taken centrally and it was a bureaucratic and inefficient system which hampered local enterprise and delivery. The Government have already made efficiencies on the programme of schemes inherited from this process. In total, schemes commencing construction in this spending review period are forecast to deliver benefits of around £8 for every £1 of public money spent, with a 34% reduction in the central Government contribution compared to previous plans.

We now have the opportunity of developing a new system for beyond 2015. A system which ensures that the best outcomes are achieved for the economy while balancing the need for developing sustainably and reducing carbon emissions; a system which hands real power to local communities; and a system which is fit for purpose in practical delivery terms.

As local major transport schemes can take on average four years to move from business case to the start of construction, it is vital that we begin to develop a new system now. And to fully empower local areas means giving them freedoms and flexibilities they have not had before.

Proposals set out in the consultation paper include: using a population based formula to allocate funding rather than putting in place a costly bidding process; a locally led assessment process for prioritising schemes, reducing the role of central Government which many local areas perceive as costly, time-consuming and autocratic; and putting Local Enterprise Partnership areas in the driving seat over which transport schemes are delivered.

The Government are proposing to devolve decisions to democratically accountable local transport bodies involving Local Enterprise Partnerships and local authorities, which are given responsibility for establishing a prioritised programme of schemes for investment. These local transport bodies would oversee the delivery of individual schemes, but would not be the vehicle for delivery, which would remain with individual local authorities or other relevant delivery agencies.

Local Enterprise Partnerships would be central to decisions, to ensure that transport investment is fully aligned with plans for economic development. Local Enterprise Partnerships can play a strong role in helping to make the tough trade-offs between competing priorities and will have a say in investment financing. Transport authorities, however, would also be crucial given their expertise, responsibilities and leadership role on transport matters.

The new system would encourage decision-making across Local Enterprise Partnership boundaries to local transport consortia—groupings of Local Enterprise Partnership areas—in order to manage a handful of big schemes, which were experienced under previous systems.

However, the Government will not force consortia formations, which would risk creating ineffective and artificial partnerships that lack legitimacy.

Instead it will be for local areas to decide what collaborations are right for them and to prioritise eligible transport interventions, which they collectively agree to deliver local growth.

In return for greater devolution, central Government will need assurances on effective governance, financial management, accountability and the achievement of value for money—matters which businesses and local authorities do every day.

In particular, the Government propose that while local areas will have the freedom to decide their own priorities and appraise individual schemes, all schemes would need to follow the Transport Business Case framework and be appraised in line with webTAG, the Department's best practice and well-evidenced guidance on transport appraisal and evaluation.

Individual schemes would also be expected to be dealt with transparently, in particular through the publication of business cases at each stage of scheme development, individual schemes meeting minimum value for money thresholds, ongoing review and monitoring, and pre and post delivery evaluation of scheme benefits.

The offer of devolution will be available to all, but different local areas will have different challenges and ambitions. The Government will take an individual approach with each local transport body to put in place a tailored system that is fit for purpose and secures value for money for the taxpayer.

I welcome responses to the consultation paper. The consultation runs from 31 January 2012 until 2 April 2012. This is shorter than the usual 12 weeks but will help ensure there is a system in place which enables local areas to begin to construct schemes by 2015.

Following the end of the consultation, my Department will consider all responses and produce a summary report alongside setting out the next steps. I will make a further statement to the House at that point.

WORK AND PENSIONS

NEST (Revised Auto-enrolment Timetable)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): on 25 January, the Government published a revised timetable for the roll-out of the automatic enrolment duties from 2012.

The statement associated with the new timetable included the following paragraph:

> "Medium sized employers will be re-allocated automatic enrolment dates between 1st April 2014 and 1st April 2015. This means that the implementation dates of some of these employers will be up to nine months later. However, this still means that around 70% of eligible workers will be automatically enrolled before the end of this Parliament compared with around 75% under previous arrangements."

Since publishing this statement the modelling assumptions have been revisited. This affects the analysis of the existing implementation profile as well as the impact of the proposals outlined last week. Existing participation in workplace pensions is higher in large and medium-sized firms than in small and micro firms. This means that a lower proportion of workers in large and medium-sized firms will need to be automatically enrolled. A lower proportion of the 9 to 10 million workers eligible for automatic enrolment will therefore be enrolled in this Parliament.

As a result of this, the paragraph above should now read as follows:

> "Medium sized employers will be re-allocated automatic enrolment dates between 1st April 2014 and 1st April 2015. This means that the implementation dates of some of these employers will be up to nine months later. *However, this still means that around 55% of eligible workers will be automatically enrolled before the end of this Parliament compared with around 65% under previous arrangements."*

I apologise for this revision and for any confusion this may cause.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 1 February 2012

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 24 January 2012. Ministers discussed the following items:

European Markets Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR)

Ministers agreed a Council position on outstanding issues relating to the authorisation of Central Counterparties (CCPs) on EMIR. This will facilitate trialogues with the European Parliament. The Government have been clear that the national competent authority (NCA) must retain a pre-eminent role with regard to the authorisation of CCPs. I secured agreement that the Council position retained this principle. The Council position means that in order to block authorisation, a significant majority of an authorisation college must vote against the NCA. Furthermore, the Government also secured safeguards that mean the NCA has the option to take the decision to binding mediation facilitated by the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). Finally, in order to maintain the objectives of the process, I secured a clause stating that any vote against an NCA is explained in writing setting out which provisions of EMIR and/or EU law have not been met.

I also secured a clause in EMIR to prevent discrimination against any member state as a venue for clearing services in any currency. This is related to a wider concern for the UK in relation to the ECB's location policy that states that non-euro area based CCPs, which includes UK-based CCPs, which clear a certain threshold of euro-denominated products should move to the euro area. The UK considers that this policy is contrary to fundamental principles of EU law and is challenging the location policy in the European Court of Justice. This challenge is ongoing.

Proposals from the Commission on Economic Governance

Ministers exchanged views on the two Commission proposals to strengthen economic governance in the euro area. The first proposal would require euro area member states to present their draft budgets at the same time each year and would give the Commission the right to assess them. The second proposal would strengthen economic and fiscal surveillance of euro area countries facing, or threatened with, serious financial instability. On the first proposal, some Ministers raised concerns about the administrative burden and timing of the reporting requirements. On the second proposal, several member states noted that the recommendation of a country to receive financial assistance should require a consensus vote, in line with decisions to grant financial assistance. The presidency asked the working group to consider these issues further.

Presentation of the Presidency work programme

The presidency presented Ministers with its programme for ECOFIN for the next six months, identifying important areas of work. First, the presidency emphasised the need to implement the six-pack and take forward the new two-pack proposals on economic governance. The second priority is to improve the stability of the European banking sector through progressing financial services dossiers. Thirdly, the presidency emphasised the importance of tax co-ordination. Finally, the presidency noted the need to co-ordinate the EU position in international forums. The Commission and Ministers supported the work programme and agreed to support the presidency.

The presidency work programme is available at: http://eu2012.dk/en/Global/Soegeresultat?q=work+programme&size=10

European Semester (including Annual Growth Survey and EuroPlus Pact)

The presidency outlined the timetable for the European semester and the Commission set out its priorities. I intervened to emphasise that fiscal consolidation is a necessary but not sufficient condition for restoring growth. Structural reforms are also needed, and the Council should have substantial discussions on these issues. The EU should exploit its full potential as a single market and negotiate trade agreements with third parties, to stimulate growth within the EU and elsewhere. I stated that I would support an EU growth test, to ensure that the regulatory burden of proposals are fully considered, not only in ECOFIN but in other Councils. I also made it clear that the Council should not spend time discussing a financial transactions tax when it is clear that there is no unanimity on the issue. Other Ministers intervened in support.

Follow-up to the G20 Meeting of Finance Deputies (Mexico, 19-20 January 2012)

The presidency and the Commission gave a debrief of the G20 Finance Deputies' Meeting. Deputies discussed the global economy and framework, strengthening financial regulation and IMF resources. G20 Finance Ministers and central bank governors will meet in Mexico on 25-26 February.

Implementation of Stability and Growth Pact

Ministers discussed the Commission's assessments of Belgium, Cyprus, Malta, Poland and Hungary's progress on correcting their excessive deficits. The Commission assessed that the first four member states had taken effective action and no further steps under the excessive deficit procedure (EDP) were necessary. The Commission proposed that Hungary had taken no effective action to bring the deficit below 3% of GDP in a sustainable manner. The Council voted in favour of the Commission's proposal. As Hungary is not a member of the euro area it cannot face sanctions under EDP. However, failure to take effective action to correct their excessive deficit could lead to the suspension of Hungary's cohesion fund commitments. The Government believe that sound public finances are essential for sustainable economic growth.

Revised Code of Conduct of the Stability and Growth Pact

Ministers endorsed the revised code of conduct. The code of conduct provides guidelines on: the implementation of the stability and growth pact and the content of stability and convergence programmes. The code of conduct has been updated in light of the new economic governance legislation. The Government supported the revised code of conduct. The Commission and the Economic and Financial Committee will review the code of conduct again later in the year.

Eurogroup plus meeting on 23 January

Ministers met prior to ECOFIN on 23 January, to discuss the European stability mechanism (ESM) treaty and the intergovernmental treaty on stability, co-ordination and governance. Ministers reached agreement on the treaty establishing the ESM and agreed that entry into force of the treaty would be brought forward to July 2012. I intervened in order to secure agreement that, in line with the spirit of the agreement reached at the December 2010 European Council, there should be no new commitments from the European financial stabilisation mechanism as soon as the ESM is established. Heads of states and Government discussed the new intergovernmental treaty further at the Informal European Council on 30 January. The Government believe that the intergovernmental treaty should not undermine the operation of the single market, or otherwise infringe on areas of policy which are for discussion by all member states in the EU context. The intergovernmental treaty should not cut across the provisions and procedures in the EU treaties, or seek to bypass the prescribed procedures for amending the EU treaties.

Eurogroup debrief

The Commission debriefed Ministers of the eurogroup meeting over breakfast. The Commission are due to release their latest forecasts, which will take into account the downside risks the Commission identified last autumn. Ministers agreed that further discussion on euro area issues were needed.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Update

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): I would like to make a statement to update hon. Members on the coalition Government's action on housing, following the publication of our housing strategy in November 2011.

We have acted quickly to ensure that the measures set out in the strategy have a rapid impact on delivering the new homes and jobs that the country needs and put power and incentives back into the hands of local communities.

Housing finance reform

My Department is today publishing the final determinations which will deliver a coalition agreement commitment to replace the discredited Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. This will involve a £19 billion deal between central and local government, delivering a new devolved system for financing council housing. Responses to our consultation show overwhelming support for our reforms. These reforms will give councils the resources, incentives and flexibility they need to provide high-quality, efficient housing services for their communities.

Under the current system. Government make a series of complex calculations each year about how much they think each council should be able to raise in rents and how much they should need to spend on their housing services. On the basis of this desk exercise in Whitehall, Government take money from some councils and give money to others.

In recent years, this has produced a national surplus for Government, currently forecast to be around £670 million in 2011-12. This so-called "tenant tax" would continue to grow each year under the current formula. Local authorities do not know from one year to the next how much they will gain or lose from this redistribution, making it hard for them to plan ahead.

Under the new system, councils will keep all their rent income and use it locally to fund their own homes. This will give councils the stability they need to develop long term business plans with the most efficient local mix of maintenance, repairs and replacement works. Instead of waiting to see what turns up in the annual subsidy round, councils will take responsibility for their homes. This will enable and encourage active local asset management to meet the future housing needs of communities.

Alongside this freedom from central control, councils will have more money to spend on their homes. The reforms do not change the rent policy established by the previous Government in 2001. But the new system deals with the chronic under-funding for capital works under the subsidy system which led to the huge backlog in Decent Homes works. The stock valuations on which the new system is based include higher assumed costs for management, maintenance and repairs, based on independent research. This will give councils on average 15% more to spend on services for tenants.

Today we are publishing the final determinations which provide the legal and financial framework for this new system. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. The determinations and supporting documents are also available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/socialhousing/councilhousingselffinance/.

The new system will replace the Housing Revenue Account subsidy from April this year.

The NewBuy Guarantee

We are announcing today that the new build mortgage indemnity scheme will be open for all new build houses and flats up to £500,000 and will be available to UK citizens buying their main home. The scheme will support up to 100,000 prospective borrowers to access a 95% loan to value mortgage. This scheme will particularly help first time buyers who currently find the size of a required deposit prohibitive.

We are also announcing today that the scheme will be known as the NewBuy Guarantee. We have already published a guide for those interested in the scheme on our website and house builders are already taking expressions of interest.

Extending the Right to Buy

On 22 December, my Department published a consultation on proposals for reinvigorating the Right to Buy, suggesting that we offer tenants a £50,000 cap on discounts across England, more than tripling the cap that currently exists in most of London and also giving a substantial increase for the rest of England. This proposal sits alongside plans to deliver one-for-one replacement so that for every home sold under the Right to Buy, a new Affordable Rent home is built.

Unlocked stalled sites

On 22 December, my Department also published a prospectus for the £420 million "Get Britain Building" investment fund, which sought expressions of interest from developers by 30 January 2012. This will help unlock progress on stalled sites that have planning permission and are shovel ready, thereby helping to create jobs and economic growth and the delivery of up to 16,000 new homes by December 2014. We halved the paperwork required and the response from industry has been positive with thousands of visits to the web page.

Regenerating surplus public land

The Government have moved rapidly to take forward the next phase of our programme to free up redundant, formerly used public sector land and buildings to support new homes. We are working with smaller landholding Departments and agencies, such as the Ministry of Justice and Home Office, to maximise the release of their surplus land for housing. We are working not just with Government Departments and agencies, but also the BBC, Network Rail and the Royal Mail.

We are putting in place support that Departments can draw on to help unlock release of their land, including through the Homes and Communities Agency, and a small advisory group of experts which will start meeting shortly, and provide practical advice to Departments on disposal of key sites.

Fairness in social housing

We are also pressing ahead rapidly with our plans to make social housing fairer, including consultations on new allocations guidance for local authorities to ensure that social homes go to people who genuinely need and deserve them the most, such as hard working families and ex-servicemen and women; and proposals to tackle fraud in social housing.

Streamlining building regulations

My Department has also launched yesterday a consultation on streamlining building regulations to save businesses money by cutting excessive red-tape while delivering safer and more sustainable buildings. The consultation includes proposals for the next steps to improve the energy efficiency of new homes, to pave the way for the introduction of zero-carbon homes from 2016, and for help with the roll out of the Green Deal this autumn.

Strengthening protection for leaseholders

Last year, my Department consulted on proposals for increasing the value limits that determine the eligibility of residential long leaseholders (those with a lease of more than 21 years) to rights in two specific areas.

These are rights to remain in their properties at the end of their lease terms as an "assured tenant" and to extend the lease or purchase the freehold of their leasehold house on particular terms. Legislative change would be subject to parliamentary approval.

Today I am publishing the summary of responses to the consultation and I can confirm our plans to bring outdated protections for leaseholders back in pace with changing property prices. The Government propose to raise the £25,000 "value limit"—or notional annual rental value—outpaced by house price inflation since it was set in 1990 to £100,000, enabling many leaseholders to stay in their home when their lease comes to an end. A copy of the summary has been placed in the Library of the House.

New Homes Bonus

We are announcing today the final payments for the second round of New Homes Bonus. Commenced in April 2011, the bonus is based on the council tax of additional homes and those brought back into use, with an additional amount for affordable homes, for the following six years.

The bonus will be paid in respect of 159,000 homes from October 2010 to October 2011 including 22,000 long-term empty properties brought back into use. The allocations also include the first affordable homes enhancement, which totals £21 million in respect of 61,000 new affordable homes.

This means we will pay councils £432 million of New Homes Bonus for local authorities in England. This includes the second instalment of £199 million in respect of year 1 and £233 million for housing growth in year 2. We will also address losses of New Homes Bonus in areas affected by last summer's riots through a separate grant from riot recovery funds.

We are confident that the New Homes Bonus will continue to support local authorities in engaging local communities in a debate about the benefits that growth can bring. The Department has written to local authorities confirming their final allocations and I have written to all Members of Parliament in England. A full list of the allocations is being placed in the Library of the House. Further information on the bonus can be found at: www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

Supporting infrastructure: Growing Places

I am also, together with my right hon. Friends, the Secretary of State for Transport, and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, confirming individual Growing Places Fund allocations.

This funding will benefit the 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships across the country. It will get housing development moving again, provide additional funding for infrastructure projects already in the pipeline and promote wider economic growth.

Local areas will be in the driving seat, with funding directed to Local Enterprise Partnerships, bringing private sector expertise to help deliver significant infrastructure projects.

Now that funding has been confirmed, Local Enterprise Partnerships and their local authority partners will be able to get to work allocating funds to address the constraints which they consider to be a priority. A number have already identified their priorities, and others are assessing options—we expect funding to be put to work quickly to support local economic growth. Funding will be paid towards the end of February 2012.

In summary, the coalition Government are getting on with the job of delivering the commitments set out in the Housing Strategy—bringing to life proposals to deliver more new homes, built to the highest quality; to get housebuilders building again; and to support tenants and prospective buyers to own their own home.

Youth Volunteering

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I am today announcing a grant of £10 million over two and a half years, to support activities for young people in England.

The grant will be used by Youth United, an initiative set up by HRH The Prince of Wales, which is a coalition of organisations that collectively provide volunteer-led volunteering opportunities for 1.5 million young people. The Youth United youth member organisations are: Air Training Corps, Army Cadets, Boys' Brigade, Fire Cadets, Girlguiding UK, Girls' Brigade, Marine and Sea Cadets, The Scouts Association, St John Ambulance, Volunteer Police Cadets.

Youth United will use this funding to recruit and train up 2,700 new adult volunteers to run 400 new groups of their member organisations in communities across the country. This will mean over 10,000 more young people will be able to join a pack or troop over the next two and a half years.

Youth United will target this funding towards areas with few resources, where there are currently limited opportunities for young people and where too few adults have the skills and experience to support existing groups or to establish new ones.

The areas identified where this money can make the biggest impact are:

Birmingham
Bradford
Knowsley
Hackney
Haringey
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Newham
Redbridge
Rochdale
Tower Hamlets

Youth United will also work in an additional four areas which will be targeted as HRH Prince of Wales's priority areas for helping young people:

Broadwater Farm Estate (Tottenham)
Burnley
Burslem (Stoke-on-Trent)
Redcar (Redcar and Cleveland)

This funding will enable 400 new groups to start. Once established, these new groups are expected to be permanently self-sustaining, raising their own running costs through local fundraising activity and/or subscriptions. I fully expect that these new groups will continue to provide valuable skills and opportunities for young people for many years to come.

DEFENCE

National Security Through Technology

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): I am pleased that we are publishing today our White Paper on "National Security Through Technology: Technology, Equipment, and Support for UK Defence and Security" which has been developed jointly with the Home Office. This fulfils one of our commitments in the strategic defence and security review and follows on from the Green Paper "Equipment, Support and Technology for UK Defence and Security: A Consultation Paper". As its title implies, the White Paper emphasises the contribution that using, sustaining and developing technology makes to our security.

This is the first time that the UK Government have set a formal statement of our approach to defence and security technology, equipment, and support. This is our high-level policy until the next strategic review, which is expected to be held in about 2015. It supersedes the defence industrial strategy 2005 and the defence technology strategy 2006.

We must ensure that our armed forces, national security, and law enforcement agencies have the best capabilities we can afford at the best value for money for the taxpayer. Balancing these considerations appropriately is even more important given the economic situation we face.

Wherever possible, therefore, we will seek to fulfil the UK's defence and security requirements through open competition in the domestic and global market, buying off-the-shelf where appropriate. We will look first for products that are proven, that are reliable and that meet our current needs. This is the best way of ensuring that our armed forces and security services have access to the equipment they need at the time they need it and at a price the nation can afford.

However, and importantly, where essential for national security, we will protect the UK's operational advantages and freedom of action; when we do this it will mean sustaining the necessary people, skills, infrastructure, and intellectual property that allow us to build and maintain our national security.

Technology underpins this approach so it is our intention to end a long period of declining budgets and maintain MOD's investment in science and technology at a minimum of 1.2% of the defence budget as protection for our future.

Defence and security procurement has a significant industrial and economic impact. Our policy on technology, equipment and support for UK defence and security also supports our wider economic policy objective to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth for the UK. A healthy and competitive defence and security industry in the UK contributes to growth and a re-balanced economy.

The White Paper reaffirms our commitment to doing our utmost to assist UK-based suppliers in obtaining export orders and to increase opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to fulfil their potential. We will continue to create the right conditions for SMEs to deliver the innovation and flexibility that we need and which they bring. We are doing this because of the benefits to the companies themselves, to the wider UK economy and to the security of the United Kingdom.

This assistance for SMEs is part of our wider work to ensure public procurement promotes growth, and includes publishing medium-term procurement pipelines; simplifying procurement processes to reduce burdens on industry, and engaging with potential suppliers at a much earlier stage, before formal procurement begins, to increase their opportunities to participate.

The defence and security sectors are vital to the success of the UK economy. In 2010 the UK was the second biggest exporter in the world with £6 billion of sales and the UK security industry was the fifth most successful exporter of security products with £2 billion of sales. The Government remain committed to robust and effective national and global controls to help prevent exports that could undermine our own security or core values of human rights and democracy; to protect our security through enhancing strategic defence relationships; and to promote our prosperity by allowing UK defence and security companies to operate effectively in the global defence market.

We are proud of the strength of the UK defence and security industries. They help provide the UK armed forces, national security, and law enforcement agencies with some of the very best kit available. They are better equipped now than they have ever been. We recognise the wider impact that Government spending choices on defence and security can have and we are therefore establishing a new ministerial working group to co-ordinate the cross-Government aspects of our new approach.

This White Paper, alongside the publication later this year of the MOD's 10-year equipment plan, is intended to be a high-level guide to our approach to meeting the requirements of our armed forces. At a time of financial constraint across Government, it is even more important to provide the clarity that will help industry to invest in the right areas, protecting both our security and the contribution these companies make to the UK economy. We plan to continue to invest a significant amount in defence equipment and its support: over £150 billion over the next 10 years.

The White Paper is part of a broader defence transformation programme, which also includes implementation of the Levene review, the Materiel Strategy, and Lord Currie's review of Government Single Source Pricing Regulations.

As the companies offering defence and security products and services become increasingly aligned, these steps will encourage a vibrant UK-based industry that is able to win a significant share of the world market, and to meet the varied and changing capabilities required by our armed forces and security services.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Offshore Oil and Gas Licensing

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): I am pleased to inform the House that I am today inviting applications for petroleum licences for unlicensed seaward blocks which will form the 27th round of offshore petroleum licensing.

Supporting around 350,000 jobs and spending around £14 billion a year, the UK oil and gas industry plays a vital role in the UK economy and in meeting our energy needs. Indigenous oil and gas production supplies the equivalent of about one half of the UK's primary energy demand. It is vital that we continue to do all we can to maximise economic recovery of indigenous hydrocarbon reserves. The licensing of new areas forms an essential part of this process enabling the exploration necessary to ensure we tap into, and fully realise, our remaining reserves—which could equate to around 20 billion barrels or perhaps more.

DECC's draft plan to offer licences for offshore oil and gas exploration and production through a 27th licensing round was the subject of a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) completed in October 2011.

The assessment can be viewed here:

http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/sit/scripts/book_info.php?consultationID=17&bookID=18

The SEA includes commissioned reports on various components of the natural environment and effects of previous activities.

The potential implications of the exploration and production activities that could follow if the draft plan was adopted were considered at an expert assessment workshop and a series of stakeholder workshops. The results of these workshops were assessed further and documented in an environmental report that then formed the basis for consultation with consultation bodies and the public. The three-month consultation period on DECC's draft plan and the environmental report was advertised in a number of local and national newspapers and emailed to a wide range of individuals and organisations.

DECC has considered all responses and a post consultation report for the latest offshore energy SEA was prepared and in August 2011 placed on the SEA website.

The post-consultation report can be viewed here:

http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/site/scripts/consultation_download_info.php?downloadID=285

This summarises consultee comments and DECC responses to them. In the 12 October 2011 statement to Parliament on the assessment we announced our intention to make preparations to proceed with this 27th offshore licensing round.

Outcomes

In deciding to proceed with a 27th offshore licensing round, DECC has had regard to the conclusions and recommendations of the environmental report and consultation feedback. As a result of the SEA process, blocks in the deepest waters of the south-west approaches are currently not being offered as part of the 27th round of offshore petroleum licensing because of inadequacy of data including data on potentially vulnerable components of the marine environment.

A number of blocks excluded from earlier licensing rounds on the basis of recommendations of previous SEAs, or currently in the process of appropriate assessment consultation, are currently not being offered as part of the 27th round of offshore petroleum licensing.

The environmental report recommended the blocks in or overlapping with the boundaries of the Moray Firth and Cardigan Bay SACs should also be withheld from this licensing round for the present pending conclusion of the further assessments initiated following the 24th licensing round applications. We have therefore excluded at present 14 blocks in the Cardigan Bay area and 12 in the Moray Firth from this round of offshore petroleum licensing.

In addition, some blocks are currently withheld from this round of offshore petroleum licensing at the request of the Crown estate as they overlie the Cleveland potash mine, and some at the request of the Ministry of Defence due to them being used for intense military testing and training.

Licensing of the blocks not currently included in this round may be revisited in the future, as more information on those blocks becomes available.

In addition, a number of blocks may be licensed but with conditions attached restricting or prohibiting certain marine activities. It should be noted that the—Offshore Petroleum Production and Pipe-lines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999—(as amended) and the—Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001—(as amended) variously require that all major activities undertaken in connection with UK offshore hydrocarbon exploration and production are subject to environmental assessment before consent can be given for these activities.

Before any licence awards are made, DECC will assess whether the grant of licences applied for in the 27th round is likely to have a significant effect on the management of any protected conservation sites. Where such effects cannot be excluded, a further detailed assessment will be needed to determine whether there are any adverse effects on the integrity of these protected conservation sites. This is required under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on "the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora", and UK implementing regulations.

DECC has, with industry and statutory environmental advisers, established an offshore oil and gas environmental monitoring committee charged with co-ordinating the strategic monitoring of potentially significant environmental effects of the industry, including those that could arise from the implementation of the plan to hold a 27th round of offshore licensing.

JUSTICE

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I have today arranged for copies of the Government's response to the report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The response was published on 30 January 2012.

The Committee issued its report on 19 December 2011. I am grateful to the Committee for its work in relation to the Bill.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Parliamentary Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr Hugo Swire): I regret that the oral answer given to the hon. Member for North Down (Lady Hermon) on 25 January, *Official Report*, column 290, contained an error. The case of Lisa Dorrian, raised by the hon. Member for North Down, falls outside the remit of the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains. The commission was established to obtain information, in confidence, which may lead to the location of the remains of victims of paramilitary violence, "The Disappeared". "The Disappeared" is defined for this purpose as those killed and buried in secret by illegal organisations prior to 10 April 1998 as a result of the Northern Ireland conflict. Lisa Dorrian disappeared in 2005 and therefore her case is outside this remit.

The correct answer is as follows:

Mr Swire: I suspect that the only thing that can give partial closure to the hon. Lady's constituents is the location of this individual. I am not certain whether the hon. Lady has signed the early-day motion, but if she has not I urge her to do so. Clearly, if the information is there the Police will act on it, but the case of Lisa Dorrian does not lie within the commission's remit as her disappearance occurred in 2005. The commission is only able to examine the cases of those who disappeared before 10 April 1998, as a result of the Northern Ireland conflict. In terms of the remaining cases of the Disappeared that the commission is dealing with, I can assure the hon. Lady that it will be properly resourced for this work both by ourselves and by the Irish Government. We are absolutely determined that we will work our way through as many of the missing as we can, but I stress that this is an information-led process and we urge anyone and everyone with any information to bring it before the two commissioners.

TRANSPORT

Garage Customer Experience

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): Maintaining vehicle road worthiness and servicing is one of the most important costs of running a car for most motorists. I am today announcing the Government's intention to work with industry and motoring organisations to improve the motorists' confidence and experience when they have to take their car, motorcycle or other private vehicle to a garage.

Motorists are generally not experts in the mechanics, electronics or component parts of their vehicles—what matters to them is that the vehicle is safe to be on the road, that they are paying a reasonable price and that what they are paying for is necessary work carried out to a good standard. Motorists want reliable servicing and MOTs from garages they trust and it is in the interests of reputable garages to deliver to a high quality.

Almost every motorist has to visit a garage or other authorised testing station at least once a year for their vehicle to undergo an MOT test—and for many people, that minimum statutory spot-check of a vehicle's roadworthiness is either combined with an annual service or leads to repairs and further work. Each year in Great Britain some 35 million MOTs take place at some 21,000 authorised premises—the annual cost to motorists of the test alone is in the region of £1 .5 billion. The UK car service and repair sector is worth around £9 billion per year to the GB economy.

The garage sector is regulated in several ways. The sector has to comply with business laws and consumer protection legislation. The MOT scheme is regulated by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) of the Department for Transport. Self-regulation has an important role to play also. For example, around 6,500 garages self-regulate their customer service through the Motor

Codes Ltd Code on Service and Repair which has full approval status under the approved codes system (OFT). And nearly 1,000 garages have been accredited with the BSI Kitemark scheme for automotive services.

The package of measures I am announcing today does not duplicate these existing controls and arrangements. But they will add value for the motorist and enhance their experience when having to deal with garages whether for an MOT test or more generally.

I am taking two immediate steps today. First, having listened closely to the very many views put forward and considered the available evidence, I have decided that I am not going to carry out further work in relation to relaxing the first test date or the frequency of testing.

Secondly, I am publishing for the first time today information gathered by VOSA about the standards of MOT testing. VOSA's MOT compliance survey 2010-11 showed that, despite large parts of the MOT test being subjective, 88% of testers were applying correct and consistent standards. There were 12% of testers who had their overall assessment of the vehicle's roadworthiness challenged by VOSA, suggesting there is still room for improvement. Publication of these data represents a considerable increase in transparency on the accuracy of MOT tests.

VOSA already carries out targeted work to improve this figure. However, I want to go further and make it easier for consumers to take action if they have not received the service they need from MOT testers. Further short term steps I am therefore taking are to:

> engage the key motoring organisations in surveying their members over the next few months to determine the most significant and frequent problems they encounter at garages, how transparent and consistent charging and service standards are and what examples of best practice customer service they have experienced—and to publish their results;
>
> identify and work with organisations able to carry out mystery shopper exercises that could supplement those which VOSA already carry out as part of their targeted supervision of the scheme;
>
> work with the Motorists' Forum to establish a sub-group to bring together a broad range of relevant motoring and industry organisations, such as the MOT Trade Forum, to help deliver the package that follows.

Over the next six months my Department will carry out the following actions:

> so that consumers can be confident that the garage they choose has signed up to deliver to the highest standards, we will work with the industry and stakeholders to encourage much wider adoption of existing codes (such as that provided through the SMMT and Motor Codes Ltd) and to develop those codes to include MOT testing services. Our ambition is that it should be the norm for garages to comply with such codes;
>
> in order to make more information available to help motorists know how the scheme is supervised, which garages perform well and which less well, we will review the MOT data gathered by VOSA and—informed by the surveys above—further improve transparency;
>
> we will also work with industry, motoring organisations and others to make it easier for consumers to give feedback on their experiences of garages in a transparent way that others can view, and to boost awareness of existing consumer feedback tools;
>
> we will help motorists to spot clocked vehicles by arranging for MOT test certificates to show mileage information for the last three years, and encouraging car buyers to check the full MOT history of vehicles by accessing online the authoritative MOT database;
>
> to help motorists know how long wear and tear items such as brakes and tyres are likely to last after an MOT test, we will work with the MOT trade initially to consider whether to adjust the MOT technical test standard.

The Government intend to develop with the Motorists' Forum sub-group a robust means by which we can measure consumer confidence over time across all garage services.

I see the above package of measures as an important element in our overall road safety policy, alongside delivering increased confidence and value for money for motorists having their vehicles MOT tested or serviced. I expect more ideas and measures to develop once the Motorists' Forum sub-group is established, and there will be opportunities for all interested parties to contribute to the debate.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Workplace Pension Reform

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to be able to publish today the Government's response to consultation on workplace pension reform. The formal consultation, which ran from 18 July to 11 October 2011, addressed the legislative changes recommended by the Making Automatic Enrolment Work review, and sought views on draft regulations published alongside the consultation document.

I would like to thank all those people and organisations who have offered their views and advice in response to our recent consultation.

The Government response document and guidance for those certifying pension schemes will be made available on the Department's website today. The final versions of the regulations will be available on the Department's website later today.

I will also place a copy of the Government response document and the guidance in the Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 2 February 2012

TREASURY

Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 (Schedule 7)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Paragraph 38 of Schedule 7 to the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 requires the Treasury to report to Parliament after each calendar year in which a direction under the schedule is at any time in force. This report provides details of the Treasury's exercise of their functions under schedule 7 during the calendar year 2011.

The Schedule 7 powers

Schedule 7 provides HM Treasury with powers to implement a graduated range of financial restrictions in response to certain risks to the UK's national interests. The risks it addresses are those posed by money laundering, terrorist financing and the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons.

Direction given under the powers in Schedule 7

The Financial Restrictions (Iran) Order 2011 ("the Order") came into force on 21 November 2011. The Order contains a direction by the Treasury requiring all UK financial and credit institutions to cease business relationships and transactions with all banks incorporated in Iran, including all subsidiaries and branches of such banks, wherever located, and the Central Bank of Iran.

The direction was issued on the basis that activity in Iran that facilitates the development or production of nuclear weapons poses a significant risk to the national interests of the UK. Iranian banks play a crucial role in providing financial services to individuals and entities within Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. Any Iranian bank is exposed to the risk of being used by proliferators in Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

The Order was approved by the House of Lords on 12 December 2011 and by the House of Commons on 13 December 2011.

Licensing

Under paragraph 17 of schedule 7, the Treasury can exempt acts specified in a licence from the requirements of a direction requiring the cessation or limiting of transactions or business relationships between UK and Iranian banks.

In operating the licensing regime in respect of the Order, the Treasury's aim is to minimise the impact of the restrictions upon third parties, without compromising the objective of the direction.

The Treasury issued six general licences on 21 November 2011:

> General Licence 1 permits existing and new transactions involving transfers of under €40,000 for humanitarian purposes;
>
> General Licence 2 allows personal remittances under €40,000;
>
> General Licence 3 permits existing or new transactions related to the provision of insurance permitted by EU Regulation 961/2010;
>
> General Licence 4 allows UK banks to continue to hold accounts for asset-frozen Iranian banks and credit payment to those accounts in accordance with EU Regulation 961/2010;
>
> General Licence 5 allows UK banks to continue to hold accounts of non-frozen Iranian banks, although they cannot process any transactions on these accounts; and
>
> General Licence 6 provided a seven-day grace period to allow payments in progress under existing contracts to be completed.

Applications that fall outside the scope of the six general licences are assessed on a case-by-case basis. In making the decision to issue a licence, the Treasury upholds the objective of the restriction while seeking to minimise the impact on third parties.

Between 21 November 2011 and 31 December 2011, four licences were granted and none refused:

> Two were granted to facilitate banks exiting their relationships with Iranian banks in accordance with the restrictions.
>
> Two more were issued to enable payments due under contracts agreed before the restrictions came into force to be made:
>
> one allowed a UK business to receive payment owed under an existing contract for the delivery of goods; and
>
> the other enabled an existing loan to be repaid.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Embassy (Liberia)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In March 1991, at the outbreak of over a decade of civil war, Britain closed its embassy in Liberia. In 2003, a UK-based political officer began work again in Monrovia, reporting to and supervised by our High Commissioner in Sierra Leone. Today, I am pleased to announce the reopening of our embassy in Liberia.

This follows the successful presidential elections at the end of last year, the inauguration of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in January, and my meeting with her in June 2011.

Reopening a British embassy in Liberia strengthens our voice at a critical time and enables us to support the process of peace-building and national reconciliation in this important African country. Since the closure of our embassy in 1991, our influence in Liberia has been limited. A fully accredited ambassador will be able to work closely with President Johnson Sirleaf's Government as they work to push forward her programme of reform and national reconciliation.

The resources of a full embassy will enable us to provide more systematic and effective support to British trade and investment. Liberia's economy is growing at over 6% per annum. The oil, mining and agriculture sectors are all set to expand rapidly over the next few years.

This decision sends a strong signal of British diplomatic re-engagement with Liberia and the wider region. It follows the upgrading of our political office in Côte d'Ivoire to the status of a full embassy.

As I said in Parliament on 11 May 2011, there will be no strategic shrinkage of Britain's diplomatic influence overseas. I remain committed to extending the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's global reach and building up British diplomatic influence in key regions of the world. Reopening the embassy in Liberia is part of that commitment.

The reopening of the embassy will incur a marginal cost over and above the cost for a political office. This would be around £35,000 in the first year and £15,000 per annum after that. A limited consular service will be offered in Liberia. Our High Commission in Ghana will continue to provide a visa service as well as more substantive consular support when necessary. A fully accredited resident ambassador will take up residence in Liberia in autumn 2012.

European Union Act 2011 (Section 5)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): A parliamentary statement has been laid before the House today, 2 February. This has been made pursuant to section 5 of the European Union Act 2011 as to whether the treaty concerning the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union falls within section 4 of the EU Act.

Copies of the parliamentary statement are available from the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. Copies of the treaty have been deposited in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Undercover Policing

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary (HMIC) has today published its review into undercover policing entitled "A review of national police units which provide intelligence on criminality associated with protest".

The review was initiated by HMIC following revelations about the activities of Mark Kennedy, a police officer working undercover for the then National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU), that led to the collapse of the trial of six people accused of planning to shut down a large power station in Nottinghamshire.

The report acknowledges that intelligence provided by undercover officers of the NPOIU enabled the police to prevent acts of the most serious violent nature.

The report examines the systems used by NPOIU to authorise and control the development of intelligence and the oversight of the activities of individual undercover officers. The report found that NPOIU undercover operations were not as well controlled as those of other units that deploy undercover officers such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Security Service and the FBI. This was especially so in the case of Mark Kennedy.

The report makes four recommendations to improve the controls and effectiveness of undercover policing of criminality associated with protest. The recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1

The arrangements for authorising those police undercover operations that present the most significant risks of intrusion within domestic extremism and public order policing should be improved as follows:

(a) ACPO should give serious consideration to establishing a system of prior approval for pre-planned, long-term intelligence development operations subject to the agreement of the OSC.

(b) The level of authorisation for long-term deployments of undercover police officers should be aligned with other highly intrusive tactics such as Property Interference, as defined by section 93 of the Police Act 1997, (subject to the legal requirements and the agreement of the OSC).

In the interim:

(c) Either a collaborative agreement should be entered into between police forces and MPS that allows one authorising officer within NDEU to own undercover operations from start to finish, or these operations should be managed in police forces by authorising officers that are:

a. Properly trained and accredited. In particular this training should cover the concepts of necessity, intrusion, proportionality, disclosure and risk management.

b. Fully briefed with all the relevant information.

In making these changes, consideration will need to be given to ensuring the police have some flexibility to deploy covert resources at short notice where operationally necessary, and to minimising potential impacts on covert human intelligence (CHIS) work and police collaboration with partners.

HMIC makes a number of further recommendations to improve the NPOIU's management of the risk associated with intrusion (see recommendations 3 and 4 below).

Recommendation 2

In the absence of a tighter definition, ACPO and the Home Office should agree a definition of domestic extremism that reflects the severity of crimes that might warrant this title, and that includes serious disruption to the life of the community arising from criminal activity. This definition should give sufficient clarity to inform judgments relating to the appropriate use of covert techniques, while continuing to enable intelligence development work by police even where there is no imminent prospect of a prosecution. This should be included in the updated ACPO 2003 guidance.

Recommendation 3

The positioning of both public order intelligence and domestic extremism intelligence within the NDEU needs to be reconsidered. There will need to be an incremental transfer to any newly created hub for public order intelligence.

Recommendation 4

In recognition that undercover operations aimed at developing intelligence around serious criminality associated with domestic extremism and public order are inherently more risky, additional controls should be implemented as follows:

(a) MPS and ACPO leads should adopt a practical framework for reviewing proposed operations or their continuation.

(b) Authorising officers should conduct a thorough review of all undercover operations that last longer than six months. This review will be in addition to an independent review by the Surveillance Commissioners.

(c) Subject to reconsideration of the public order component (see recommendation no.3), domestic extremism operations should continue to be managed within the existing regional counter-terrorism unit structure, and there should be oversight by an operational steering group representing a range of interests and agencies. External governance could be provided using arrangements similar to those employed by the counter-terrorism network.

(d) The rationale for recording public order intelligence material on NDEU's database should to be sufficient to provide assurance that its continued retention is necessary and justified given the level of intrusion into people's privacy.

(e) Exit plans should be an addendum to the risk assessment and should be reviewed by the authorising officer, and they should be considered by appropriately trained police cover officers and police-employed psychologists collectively, alongside risks to the operational strategy and welfare of undercover officers.

(f) In order for safeguards to operate effectively consideration should be given to undercover officers waiving their right to confidentiality allowing the psychologist to brief managers of any concerns.

(g) The 2003 ACPO guidance needs urgent revision taking account of the findings of this and other reviews.

With the police, the Government will consider carefully the recommendations to ensure enhanced control of these undercover police officers in the future. Indeed, steps have already been taken to address some of the concerns. For example, the Metropolitan Police Service runs the National Domestic Extremism Unit (which now carries out the functions of NPOIU) on behalf of the police forces in England and Wales. This new arrangement came into effect in early 2011 and simplifies the scrutiny of the NDEU as it will be subject to the Metropolitan Police Service governance and accountability arrangements.

I am grateful to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary for his review. A copy of this report will be placed in Library of the House.

Justice and Home Affairs Post-Council Statement

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Attending on behalf of the United Kingdom were my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice, the Scottish Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs Roseanna Cunningham MSP and myself. The following issues were discussed at the Council:

The first plenary session focused on solidarity in immigration and asylum, considering the need for Council conclusions on a common framework for solidarity; the trigger for solidarity measures; whether the agencies should have a strengthened role; whether there should be intra-EU relocation of refugees; and whether a framework should include Schengen and third-country co-operation. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said that the starting point for all should be to meet existing obligations, alongside burden-sharing. Within the EU joint asylum processing and voluntary relocation would be welcome, while there was a need for external action to strengthen resettlement and develop regional protection pilots. There was also a need to ensure that improved management of migration at the borders was sensitive to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers.

The Commission said that assistance could be provided within the framework of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) but solidarity was also about keeping one's own house in order. Commissioner Malmström supported a soft-law framework plus the early warning system, but any mechanism should be on the request of the member state with consideration by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the Commission. She noted that the EU agencies could only work within their competence and co-ordination could only be done by the Commission. She also urged support for the voluntary relocation scheme and noted there was a link between Schengen and solidarity, against which evaluation of the former needed to be strengthened. The chair of the European Parliament (EP) Civil Liberties Committee emphasised the need to keep international protection distinguished from migration. They had consistently made the case for internal relocation and wanted the European Parliament to be informed at the earliest stage of early warning systems.

Many member states intervened to emphasise that solidarity depended on trust and should not detract from responsibility, which included investing in appropriate systems to manage changes in migration flows. The UK agreed that the need to have a functioning domestic system was the basic building block, without which real solidarity was impossible. The UK also expressed caution over EASO's role being further developed at this stage and would not support an extension of relocation beyond the Malta pilot project, at least before it was evaluated. The UK said that relocation simply moved the problem around Europe rather than addressing the underlying problems. The UK also welcomed the presence of Turkey at the Council, with whom it supported strengthened co-operation. The majority of member states' interventions supported the creation of a framework for solidarity in the form of Council conclusions and supported the inclusion of co-operation with third countries and consideration of Schengen within the proposed framework.

The presidency concluded that solidarity was dependent on trust and that a framework would be useful as a supplement to an early warning system. There was support for including components related to Schengen and co-operation with third countries and there was a place for strengthening the agencies. They noted there was not support for relocation. They committed to preparing draft conclusions in March which they hoped would unlock negotiations on the Dublin regulation. The task would then be to turn them into results by June. They noted it was closely linked to better political management of Schengen which would go to the March JHA Council.

In the light of the review of the family reunification directive, over lunch Ministers discussed the challenges facing them with respect to family reunification.

The next plenary session focused on the financing of passenger name records (PNR) under the proposed directive on the collection and sharing of PNR between member states. The presidency noted that, while the starting point for the implementation of EU policies was that member states took the cost of implementation, the EU could sometimes meet set-up costs. The Commission said they were willing to co-finance set-up costs in this case but could not finance running costs or all set-up costs. They had allocated €50 million (£41.76 million) for 2012 and fully intended to finance it in the future, via the new Internal Security Fund, currently under negotiation. The UK reiterated the importance of an EU PNR system for fighting terrorism and organised crime. Given its benefits the UK hoped the finance issue would be resolved and offered its own experience to assist others in helping to reduce their costs.

The majority of member states intervened to support funding from the EU financial instruments, with most supporting an explicit reference in the text of the new Internal Security Fund instrument. The European Parliament said that the issue for it was not cost, but noted that cost could affect them. The European Parliament believed that excluding EU internal flights from the scope of the directive would be cheaper. The presidency concluded there was general agreement to use the Internal Security Fund for funding for PNR, but member states needed reassurance that substantial financial support would be available. Discussions on the directive and Internal Security Fund will continue at expert level.

The Justice day commenced with a discussion on the Brussels I regulation, where the presidency invited delegations to discuss the proposed rules of jurisdiction in cases involving defendants in non-EU member states. The UK did not see any evidence of practical problems with the current arrangements, whereby national rules applied to such cases. Most other member states thought there was no need to extend the rules of jurisdiction in Brussels I to such cases. The presidency concluded that further work should be taken forward on basis of maintenance of the status quo.

This was followed by a discussion on criminal sanctions in the context of the current proposal for a directive on insider dealing and market manipulation. Ministers were asked to consider whether a provision for minimum levels of maximum penalties should be included in the proposed directive, and whether there should, as a rule, be provision for minimum-maximum levels of sanctions in future criminal law directives. The Commission stated that there must be respect for subsidiarity and proportionality and that there was no need for such a rule in the directive. The UK supported the Commission's approach and felt that the first priority was for some criminal provision to be in place so that it was clear that the conduct would be treated as a serious offence. The UK also stressed the importance of enforcement and that having the options of both a criminal and civil approach would aid prosecutors, bearing in mind that criminal offences were harder to prove. The presidency concluded that the majority of states considered that having no specific minimum-maximum sanctions would be the right approach and that the question of sanctions in future instruments should be considered on a case by case basis.

During the ministerial lunch there was a discussion on the transfer of sentenced persons and social rehabilitation. Member states reviewed implementation so far of the framework decision on transfer of sentenced persons. Most states are in the process of implementation. There was widespread agreement that additional legislative measures to facilitate implementation were unnecessary, but that practical measures to activate the process must be addressed. The UK supports the framework decision so that foreign national offenders are able to serve their sentences in their own country to facilitate their eventual reintegration into the community in which they will live.

Petition

Thursday 26 January 2012

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

BAE Systems Jobs in the Humber region

The Petition of residents of Humberside,

Declares that the Petitioners support workers at BAE Systems in Brough in their fight to save Humber jobs.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to support the defence industry by investing in modern manufacturing and regeneration around the Humber and to preserve skilled jobs and apprenticeships in the Humberside area.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Diana Johnson, Official Report,* 14 December 2011; Vol. 537, c. 891 .]

[P000990]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

Government are acting to support those whose livelihoods are threatened and mitigate the impact of any job losses on the local economy. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Ministry of Defence are in regular contact with BAE Systems and we understand that the company has been exploring all options to avoid unnecessary job losses. Government have put in place the Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service to provide a range of support measures, such as training, alongside those offered by BAE Systems.

The Government are doing all they can to work with local partners to encourage new companies and investment into the area. This includes announcing two Enterprise Zones on the Humber which, through a combination of fiscal incentives and a simplified planning regime, will generate both businesses and jobs; helping to rebalance the economy and drive local and national growth. In particular, work is under way to attract offshore wind turbine manufacturers and their supply chain. In addition, the Government have made a conditional offer under the Regional Growth Fund which includes support for offshore wind skills and training programmes on the Humber North Bank, including delivery of 600 apprenticeship places in engineering and 1,000 upskilling qualifications. Government are supporting the defence industry's export efforts through the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation and across Government. We also hope that the Talent Retention Solution website (www.talentretention.biz) will help connect those skilled people looking for a new job in advanced manufacturing and engineering with potential employers.

BAE Systems have confirmed their strong commitment to apprentices and, where individuals are unable to complete their apprenticeships at the Brough site, the Apprenticeship programme has sufficient flexibility to allow those affected to move to other sites to complete their training. Government have committed to help more people benefit from high quality Apprenticeships. On 16 November 2011, Government announced new financial incentives to help small businesses take on a first apprentice aged 16-24 and, in December, confirmed that funding for Apprenticeships in 2012-13 will be increased to over £1.5 billion.

Petition

Monday 30 January 2012

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

NHS Services in Blackpool South

The Petition of residents of Blackpool South,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned that the Government's Health and Social Care Bill, with its proposed changes to the NHS, will adversely affect NHS services for residents across Blackpool South.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to amend the Health and Social Care Bill so as to secure existing levels of funding and service provision for NHS patients in Blackpool South.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Gordon Marsden, Official Report,* 19 December 2011; Vol. 537, c. 1168.]

[P000994]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Health Department:

The Government remain committed to ensuring that the funding for NHS services grows in real terms in each year of this Parliament. The Government have introduced the Health and Social Care Bill precisely to ensure that existing resources within the NHS are used better, with decisions being made by clinicians and their patients.

The decisions as to how resources are spent locally to provide services is, however, a matter for the local NHS, and my Department will bring the concerns raised in this petition to the attention of the NHS in Blackpool.

Petitions

Tuesday 31 January 2012

OBSERVATIONS

EDUCATION

Free Fruit for Young Children

The Petition of children from Northway Primary and Nursery School,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose the cancelling of free fruit for young children due to cuts to local authority funding; notes that fruit provides children with the essential vitamins they need to keep strong, fit, active and healthy; further notes that as a snack, fruit provides children with extra energy between breakfast and lunch which helps them to learn and declares that the Petitioners believe that the free fruit scheme may be the only way that some children are able to get fruit, as parents in financial difficulty may not be able to afford to buy fruit for their children.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reconsider their deep cuts to local authority funding so that Liverpool City Council can afford to maintain its free fruit scheme in schools.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Luciana Berger, Official Report,* 9 November 2011; Vol. 535, c. 409.]

[P000976]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS), which is administered by DH, is a key part of the 5 A DAY programme and is complemented by a number of government programmes to improve young people's diets and which encourage higher fruit and vegetable consumption. These Include: Healthy Start, Change4Life and the nutritional standards for school food.

Under the SFVS, all four to six year old children in Key Stage 1 in fully State-funded infant, primary and special schools throughout England are eligible to receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable every school day.

Liverpool City Council was one of a few local authorities which funded the extension of the SFVS to its Key Stage 2 children. It appears that it is this extension which the council has decided not to continue to fund—Key Stage 1 children will continue to receive free fruit and vegetables through the SFVS which continues, unchanged.

Every part of the public sector needs to do its bit to help reduce the legacy of Government debt and the massive overdraft that the coalition Government have inherited. Councils account for around a quarter of all public expenditure so they have to play their part.

As democratically elected organisations, local authorities are independent from central Government, and responsible for their own finances. This means that spending decisions are for individual councils to make.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Petition of staff at John Leggott College, Scunthorpe, and Frederick Gough School, Scunthorpe,

Declares that the Petitioners note that the Teachers' Pension Scheme, along with other schemes, was reformed in 2007 to ensure sustainability and viability for the long term, declares that the Petitioners reject the Government's claim that such schemes are unaffordable and a drain on taxpayers, further declares that the Petitioners believe that proposed changes to public sector pensions, including those of teachers, lecturers, principles and head teachers working in maintained schools, academics, independent schools and teaching colleges are unjustified and declares that the Petitioners believe that continuing Government changes to these pensions will be deeply damaging to staff recruitment, retention, mobility, morale and motivation and will jeopardise the education of all children and young people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to withdraw its proposals on reform of teachers' pensions, and conduct a valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Nic Dakin, Official Report,* 7 November 2011; Vol. 535, c. 134.]

[P000974]

The Petition of teachers in the Cynon Valley,

Declares that the Petitioners note that the Teachers' Pension Scheme, along with other schemes, was reformed in 2007 to ensure sustainability and viability for the long term, declares that the Petitioners reject the Government's claim that such schemes are unaffordable and a drain on taxpayers, further declares that the Petitioners believe that proposed changes to public sector pensions, including those of teachers, lecturers, principles, head teachers and vice-chancellors working in maintained schools, academics, independent schools, universities and teaching colleges are unjustified and declares that the Petitioners believe that continuing Government changes to these pensions will be deeply damaging to staff recruitment, retention, mobility, morale and motivation and will jeopardise the education of all children and young people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to withdraw its proposals on reform of teachers' pensions, and conduct a valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ann Clwyd, Official Report,* 22 November 2011; Vol. 536, c. 2P.]

[P000985]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

The cost of public service pensions has increased dramatically because people are living longer, on average ten years longer than in the 1970s. This means that the cost of providing public service pension schemes such as the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is increasing. That is why the Government commissioned Lord Hutton to undertake an independent review of pension provision in the public service and to make recommendations about how such pensions can be made sustainable and affordable, whilst remaining fair to the workforce and the taxpayer.

In his final report, published in March 2011, Lord Hutton recommended changes to public service pension schemes. In making his recommendations Lord Hutton considered carefully previous public service pension reforms (in 2007 in the case of the TPS) but concluded that further reform is needed to ensure the long term fairness, affordability and sustainability of public service pension schemes. The Government accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations as the basis for consultation and Ministers have been meeting constructively with trade unions and other representative bodies to discuss proposals for reform.

On 20 December the Secretary of State made a Written Ministerial Statement confirming the outcome of discussions with teacher unions on reform of the TPS. The statement set out the core parameters for the design of a reformed TPS, to be introduced in 2015. Unions are now expected to take the outline reformed scheme design to their Executives for agreement, consulting members as appropriate.

Scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. Many of these are being considered further in the context of the core design for a reformed TPS announced on 20 December. The Government have therefore decided that it would not be a sensible use of public funds to undertake costly actuarial valuations at this stage.

The reformed TPS will remain one of the best available. It is a valuable part of the remuneration package available to teachers and will continue to play an important role in recruiting and retaining teachers. The Government are committed to agreeing a set of reforms that will not only sustain high quality pension provision for teachers in the long term, but that also reflects the distinctive nature of the profession.

Petition

Wednesday 1 February 2012

OBSERVATIONS

JUSTICE

Protection of War Memorials

The Petition of Ian Coleman and ex-service personnel in Blackpool,

Declares that the nation's war memorials and their surroundings should be treated as special places and respected in a manner which befits those whose lives they commemorate.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ensure the protection of war memorials via a more rigid enforcement of existing laws or by bringing forward new legislation to ensure that war memorials are adequately protected.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Gordon Marsden, Official Report,* 15 December 2011; Vol. 537, c. 1029 .]

[P000992]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Government take a very serious view of damage to and desecration of war memorials, and believe that they should be preserved for the benefit of future generations. The actions of those who steal or damage war memorials stand in stark contrast to the courage of men and women who serve in our armed forces.

We would like to reassure Mr Coleman and all those who signed the petition that tough penalties already exist for those who desecrate war memorials in this way. Theft is a criminal offence under section 1 of the Theft Act 1968, and carries a maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment. Criminal damage is an offence under section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971, and has a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment. The offence of outraging public decency is another relevant offence: as a common law offence, this carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Offenders convicted of any of these offences may also be fined as an alternative or in addition to a term of imprisonment, and may be subject to an ancillary order, such as an order to pay compensation.

Within these maximum penalties, judges and magistrates will seek to establish the harm the offence caused and the culpability of the offender. Courts will also weigh up individual aggravating and mitigating factors in order to determine the seriousness of the offence, which in turn will influence their decision as to the appropriate sentence.

Judges and magistrates have wide discretion when considering these aggravating and mitigating factors. They can and do have regard to the special status of war memorials when sentencing an offender for criminal damage.

The Government have asked the Sentencing Council to consider revising sentencing guidelines, to make the fact that an offence was targeted against a war memorial a formal aggravating factor. This would underline to the courts—and the public—that sentences for theft of or damage to war memorials should properly reflect the seriousness of this public desecration.

We have considered representations on this matter and are of the view that there is sufficient scope within existing penalties to apply tough sentences to perpetrators of such crimes, but it is for the courts to decide what penalty is appropriate given the circumstances.

In recent years, war memorials have increasingly become targets for theft for their scrap value because of the rising cost of metals. In addition, there is a black market for public art made from any material. Some war memorials with figurative sculpture designed by leading artists are collectable items with some being stolen to order.

These recent developments should be addressed by the Home Secretary's intention, announced on 26 January, to lay a Government amendment to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill to create a new criminal offence to prohibit cash payments to purchase scrap metal; and significantly increase the fines for all offences under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964. This follows the Government's commitment in the National Infrastructure Plan published in November 2011 to provide £5 million to establish a dedicated metal theft taskforce to enhance law enforcement activity in this area.

The War Memorials Trust has published guidance with English Heritage and Historic Scotland on how to prevent theft from war memorials and what to do if a theft has occurred.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 23 January 2012

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was spent on advertising in the UK economy in the last year for which figures are available; and what proportion of GDP this figure represented. [90929]

Mr Vaizey: The advertising sector was estimated to have contributed £5.9 billion, or 0.48% to the UK's CVA in 2009.

The latest "Creative Industries Economic Estimates" bulletin was released in December 2011, in which the contribution to the economy of the creative industries is estimated (including the advertising sector) covering gross value added (GVA), employment, exports in services and number of businesses. This can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8682.aspx

Broadband: EU Grants and Loans

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on European regional development fund applications relating to superfast broadband. [91549]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has been working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the definition of eligible expenditure on superfast broadband from the European regional development fund and we have agreed some guidance which has been issued to broadband stakeholders. As set out in the National Infrastructure Plan and the Growth Review published in 2011, the Government are taking a flexible approach to ensure that local areas can benefit from the available funding.

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what provision will be made for British Overseas Territories in the official Queen's diamond jubilee celebration; [91037]

(2) what assistance his Department is giving to British Overseas Territories to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee. [91038]

Hugh Robertson: A series of key events will take place over the extended bank holiday weekend in June to mark Her Majesty's diamond jubilee. This Department is working closely with Foreign and Commonwealth Office colleagues and Buckingham palace to establish how the Overseas Territories can take part in these events, and to ensure they are given every opportunity to engage with the celebrations. For example, Overseas Territories Governments are being supported in their plans to hold diamond jubilee celebrations, which for many will include lighting a beacon to mark the occasion. Citizens of the Overseas Territories will be eligible for the diamond jubilee medal in line with the agreed eligibility criteria. And, as announced in December by Buckingham palace, members of the royal family will be visiting Overseas Territories throughout the diamond jubilee year on behalf of the Queen.

HMS Ark Royal

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made on the possible financial benefits to the economy of Torbay from the sale of HMS Ark Royal to the Wreck the World organisation. [90011]

Peter Luff: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Defence.

All proposals received to buy HMS Ark Royal are being evaluated solely against published technical, financial and commercial criteria.

Work to evaluate the proposals is at an advanced stage and we hope to make a decision about the successful bid in the near future.

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many listed places of worship have participated in the grant scheme for repairs in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* England in the last 12 months. [91432]

John Penrose: From 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011, two listed places of worship in Leicester have claimed a grant from the listed places of worship grant scheme, and 2,223 listed places of worship in England have claimed a grant from the scheme.

Official Visits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which five sports *(a)* he and *(b)* the Minister for Sport and the Olympics visited most in an official capacity in 2011. [88918]

Hugh Robertson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport and I visited many sports in an official capacity in 2011. Some of the sports included were badminton, beach volleyball, cricket, cycling, football, golf, motor racing, rugby, sailing, tennis, wheelchair basketball, boxing, table tennis, equestrianism, handball, rowing, swimming, synchronised swimming, gymnastics, climbing and archery.

Television: Advertising

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has assessed the effect of *(a)* advertising specifically focused on children and *(b)* fictional acts of violence portrayed on television and in film on children's subjective well-being levels. [90874]

Mr Vaizey: No assessment has been made. The rules on media content standards are the responsibility of media regulators that are independent of Government. It is these regulators who assess the sort of material that is appropriate for different audiences.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the Big Society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91390]

John Penrose: This Department's Business Plan contains a number of commitments which will help boost the Big Society. Updates on progress against all milestones in the Business Plan are published monthly and are available here:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/8317.aspx

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Education

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of the Standard Learning Credit scheme in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15; [87897]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely cost of the Enhanced Learning Credits scheme in *(a)* 20011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [88390]

Mr Robathan: We continue to promote lifelong learning and estimate the following will be refunded to claimants through the Standard, and Enhanced Learning Credits scheme:

£ million

Financial year	*Standard Learning Credits*	*Enhanced Learning Credits*
2011-12	2.1	15.3
2012-13	2.1	16.2
2013-14	2.2	17.2
2014-15	2.2	17.3

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to encourage more service personnel to take advantage of the funding assistance provided by his Department through schemes such as the Enhanced Learning Credits Scheme and Standard Learning Credits Scheme. [89433]

Mr Robathan: The MOD promotes lifelong learning among members of the armed forces, and this is encouraged through the Learning Credits schemes. Recruits undertaking phase one training are provided with a briefing on the schemes and are automatically enrolled. These briefings are routinely followed up by learning and development officers and service resettlement advisers. In addition Learning Credits are regular features in the "Courses 4 Forces" and "Quest" publications, both of which are widely distributed by service establishments and also online.

Arms Trade

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the National Security Council has discussed the Arms Trade Treaty; and whether he has asked the Council to discuss it. [88613]

Nick Harvey: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), on 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 75W.

Entertainers: Afghanistan

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding from the public purse has been spent on provision of accommodation, hospitality, transport or other facilities to enable showbusiness personalities, radio presenters and others in the entertainment industry to visit Afghanistan in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [90242]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* Entertainment of members of the armed forces is, and has for many years been, an important element of the deployment welfare package. It helps to maintain morale and thereby combat effectiveness of service personnel. The Ministry of Defence has a contract with Combined Services Entertainment to provide entertainment to members of the armed forces deployed overseas, including Afghanistan. The value of entertainment provided for Afghanistan against this contract during 2011 was £437,637. This figure does include an element for UK travel and mobilisation costs, however. Entertainment personalities who visit Afghanistan under this contract or under other auspices are transported and accommodated alongside armed forces personnel at minimal extra cost to the public purse.

Ex-servicemen

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans to assess whether levels of *(a)* alcohol dependency, *(b)* substance dependency, *(c)* homelessness, *(d)* mental health problems and *(e)* crime perpetration are higher than average among ex-service personnel. [89964]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence fully supports the need for high quality research in these areas. We have commissioned a number of well-received studies over a number of years into various aspects of Defence health, including mental health. One such ongoing study carried out by King's college, London has, since 2003, researched the experiences of armed forces personnel who served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan. The study has over 20,000 participants and it monitors the effects of operational service against a cohort group who did not deploy. Key findings to-date are:

The overall mental health of the armed forces is good and prevalence of disorders among service personnel is generally in line with the rest of the population.

Some 13% of respondents displayed evidence of alcohol misuse, compared to a similar figure in the general population. Increased use is associated with operational deployment.

Some 4% of respondents displayed symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (compared with 3%-7% in the general population).

Common mental health disorders, such as anxiety and depression, are more prevalent, with 19.7% of service personnel studied experiencing them.

The deployment on operations was associated with a small increase in symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder in reservists (5%). This should be viewed against the very low prevalence of symptoms for reservists (1.8%) who did not deploy on operations.

We currently estimate that about 3.5% of the prison population in England and Wales has previously served in the armed forces. We are committed to playing our part in supporting the Ministry of Justice and our voluntary and community sector partners, in identifying and supporting ex-service personnel who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

HMS Victory

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future management and conservation of the wreck of HMS Victory 1744; and if he will make a statement. [90968]

Mr Robathan: An agreement has been reached with the Maritime Heritage Foundation for the trust to undertake the future management of the Victory 1744 wreck site. The remains of the vessel have been gifted to the trust, with safeguards to ensure that any actions taken in respect of the wreck are consistent with the archaeological principles set out in Annex A to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Programme: Tankers

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RFA tankers are to be ordered in the MARS programme. [90755]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* We have received the final bids for the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) Tankers programme and anticipate announcing the winning bid later this spring. Up to four MARS tankers are expected to be ordered.

Rescue Services

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 799W, on rescue services, what the minimum altitude was of the maritime patrol aircraft provided by the Irish Air Corps during the search and rescue operation for the Swanland; and if he will make a statement. [90815]

Nick Harvey: The fixed-wing aircraft support to the Swanland rescue operation was provided by the Irish Coast Guard, part of the Irish Department of Transport. The Ministry of Defence does not hold information on the minimum altitude of the aircraft during the operation.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the oral answer of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 172W, on individual voter registration, for what reasons the level of voter registration will not decrease significantly following the introduction of individual electoral registration. [91277]

Mr Harper: The Government are putting safeguards in place to stop people "dropping off" the register, as well as looking at ways we can increase registration levels during the transition to individual electoral registration (IER).

We have learnt from the experience in Northern Ireland and are phasing in IER over two years. Existing electors will be invited to register under the new system in both the amended canvass in 2014 and the full household canvass in 2015 before they are removed from the register. In these canvasses we are funding extensive contact with all electors that will include invitations to register, reminders and door to door canvassing. This will be supported by an Electoral Commission publicity campaign.

Last year we tested data matching—the matching of electoral registers with public databases. We are now considering the emerging findings and how they might support completeness over the transition to IER.

The recent report by the Electoral Commission on completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers shows that it is important, now more than ever, that we modernise the system of electoral registration. That is what we are doing as part of the transition to IER, for example by enabling online registration. The Government remain committed to ensuring that the maximum number of eligible people are on the register.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has considered downgrading the remit of the Electoral Commission to monitor electoral registration. [91280]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission issues guidance to and sets standards for electoral registration officers on electoral administration and monitors their performance. The Government believe that this is an appropriate role for the Electoral Commission and have no plans to change it.

EDUCATION

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish the outcome of the consideration he gave under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 to the effect of establishing the free schools that opened in September 2011. [89054]

Mr Gibb: The outcome of the consideration under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010, in respect of the impact of establishing a new school on educational institutions in the area in which the additional school is (or is proposed to be) situated, is the Funding Agreement. The 2011 Free School Funding Agreements will be published in due course.

Academies: Faith Schools

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether his Department is working with the Church of England to make it possible for community schools to convert to faith academies in one consultation; [90376]

(2) what equality impact assessment his Department has made on any plans to expand the number and proportion of *(a)* academy and *(b)* non-academy Church of England schools; [90377]

(3) what measures are in place to protect staff and students at former community schools that gain a faith ethos from religious discrimination by the school or the school's sponsor; [90378]

(4) whether a school without a religious character but with a faith ethos can place an occupational requirement on some senior posts requiring them to share the religion of the school. [90379]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* We believe that it is right that all schools, whether faith schools or not, should have the chance to enjoy the benefits of academy status. We have been clear however, that schools which are voluntarily converting to academy status should not be able to use the process of conversion itself to gain a faith designation.

The current requirement in respect of maintained schools for a school to close and then reopen as a faith school in order to gain a religious designation is set out in primary legislation. Any change would, therefore require legislation. The Department is currently reviewing school organisation regulations, which apply in relation to maintained schools, with the aim of streamlining processes and reducing bureaucracy.

The Department has no plans to expand the number and proportion of Church of England schools. Therefore, an equality impact assessment of such a proposal has not been necessary.

Where an existing academy wants to gain a religious designation, it must seek the permission of the Secretary of State to change its articles and funding agreement. We would always insist that a consultation of the local community had been carried out before considering whether such permission would be granted. Where an academy did gain a faith designation, we would ensure that in amending the funding agreement there was guaranteed protection for existing staff.

Only designated faith schools have an exemption from the Equality Act 2010 which allows them to apply religious criteria to certain posts, in line with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998. Other schools may only discriminate in relation to senior posts if they can demonstrate that there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be of a particular religion or belief.

Academies: Primary Education

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of any effects of the conversion of primary schools into academies on *(a)* head teacher salaries, *(b)* provision of cooked meals in schools and *(c)* provision of free school meals. [89067]

Mr Gibb: The Government believe that teachers and head teachers and governors know best how to run schools. This includes the freedom to set terms and conditions in relation to staff, including head teachers, to give them greater scope to innovate and raise standards for the pupils in their schools. Regardless of academy status, a school meal must also be provided to pupils who meet the eligibility criteria and who have made a request for the meal. It is for schools themselves to decide what form that meal should take, i.e. whether they provide a hot or cold meal, or a packed lunch. The academy's funding agreement requires the academy trust to ensure that a school lunch is provided for eligible pupils.

Children: Well-being

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to include reference to children's subjective well-being relating to school life within school inspection frameworks and performance measures. [90140]

Mr Gibb: A new school inspection framework came into effect at the start of January. This reflects provisions in the Education Act 2011 which require inspection reporting to be focused around the areas of pupils' achievement; teaching quality; leadership; and pupils' behaviour and safety. In reporting on these matters, inspectors need to consider how the school is meeting the needs of the range of pupils and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. All these aspects are relevant to pupils' subjective well-being.

The Government are publishing, through the school performance tables, comprehensive information about the standards pupils attain; the progress they make at school; and how gaps in performance between groups of pupils are narrowing. These matters impact strongly on pupils' well-being.

The Government are also committed to using the subjective well-being data that will become available through the Office for National Statistics'. "Measuring national well-being programme", alongside more traditional objective measures, to assess the impact of policies on people's quality of life.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of the ending of educational maintenance allowance on levels of subjective well-being for 16 to 18-year-olds. [90139]

Mr Gibb: Recent well-being data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that young people aged between 16 and 19 were rated as having relatively high levels of life satisfaction and happiness.

The Department's decision to end education maintenance allowance (EMA) was informed by research which indicated that most young people who received EMA would have participated in further education without it.

The 16-19 bursary fund, which began at the beginning of the current academic year, targets financial support towards those young people who are experiencing significant barriers to participating in education and training. The Department has commissioned an independent evaluation of the bursary fund which is due to commence soon. The evaluation will consider the overall impact of the new arrangements, and will look particularly at the impact on vulnerable groups and those less likely to participate post-16.

Financial Services: Education

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* quality and *(b)* level of financial education in schools. [91009]

Mr Gibb: Financial education is currently taught as part of the non-statutory framework for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education.

In July 2010, Ofsted published a report on PSHE education in schools, based on evidence from inspections of 165 maintained schools in England between September 2006 and July 2009. Inspectors found that students in those schools that were successfully developing personal finance education showed a good understanding of personal finance, used financial terms correctly and were able to apply their knowledge in making financial decisions. They highlighted inconsistency in provision for finance education.

We are reviewing PSHE, including financial capability, to determine how we can improve the quality of all PSHE teaching and support teachers to teach the subject well. The review will allow my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education to consider the place of financial education in the curriculum. We have completed our public evidence-gathering phase, and expect to publish proposals for public consultation later this year.

Free School Meals

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he gives to the number of free school meals claimed when calculating levels of educational *(a)* attainment and *(b)* performance. [90886]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* The Government are committed to closing attainment gaps between disadvantaged pupils and their peers. Eligibility for free school meals (FSM) is used as a measure for disadvantage and the attainment of pupils who are eligible for FSM forms a key part of the published school performance data. The Department publishes national and local attainment data by pupil characteristics, including eligibility for FSM, annually. These data for Key Stage 2 were published on 15 December and data for Key Stages 4 and 5 will be published in February 2012.

The new Ofsted framework for inspection specifically refers to pupils eligible for FSM and inspectors are required to consider the extent to which the school meets the needs of such pupils.

History: GCSE

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of children taking history at GCSE level. [90907]

Mr Gibb: The Government are concerned that GCSE entries to history, geography and foreign languages have been falling and have introduced the English Baccalaureate to reverse these declines.

The English Baccalaureate recognises schools' and pupils' GCSE achievements in English, maths, sciences, history, geography and languages. We have published information on GCSE performance in this combination of subjects to encourage schools to open their study up to more pupils.

A survey of nearly 700 schools, carried out last summer, indicated that the introduction of the English Baccalaureate is having an immediate impact on the proportion of children electing to take up study of GCSE history. Schools responding indicated that 39% of their pupils (taking GCSEs in 2013) are taking up history, against 31% of pupils entered for history GCSEs in 2010. This represents an approximate increase of 26% in the number of pupils taking up history in the schools responding.

Primary Education: Teachers

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have qualified as primary school teachers in the last three years for which figures are available. [89162]

Mr Gibb: The latest available data are given in the following table:

Number attaining qualified teacher status as primary teachers, by gender. Academic years 2007/08 to 2009/10. Coverage: England

	Gender		
Academic year	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
2007/08	2,010	13,510	15,520
2008/09	2,100	13,660	15,770
2009/10	2,370	13,320	15,690

Notes:

1. Includes all routes to qualified teacher status (postgraduate and undergraduate routes, college-based and employment-based routes).
2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10, so totals might not appear to be the sum of their parts.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children eligible for the pupil premium in Carlisle constituency in academic year 2012-13. [89163]

Sarah Teather: We do not yet have final figures for the number of pupils eligible for the pupil premium in the 2012-13 academic year as they will, in part, be based on pupil numbers recorded in the January 2012 census returns. The Department has produced illustrative tables, based on the January 2011 pupil census, showing estimated allocations of the pupil premium for 2012-13. This estimate reflects the change in the criteria for eligibility for the pupil premium which I announced on 12 December 2011. This extends eligibility in 2012-13 to pupils who have been eligible for FSM at any point in the last six years. The tables can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/settlement2013pupilpremium/a00200465/schools-funding-settlement-2012-13-including-pupil-premium

Based on the January 2011 pupil census, the estimated number of pupils in the Carlisle constituency who would be eligible for the pupil premium in 2012-13 is 2,530. The total number of pupils eligible for the pupil premium in the Carlisle constituency may be higher, but it is not possible to identify the number of pupils in each parliamentary constituency recorded as being in care or recorded in the alternative provision census as, in both cases, the returns are provided at local authority level rather than at establishment level.

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children the pupil premium has been allocated to in Carlisle constituency since it was introduced. [89164]

Sarah Teather: The pupil premium was introduced in April 2011 and allocations have so far only been made for the 2011-12 financial year. Pupil premium funding is provided in respect of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals, children in care who have been continuously looked after for at least six months and children whose parents are serving in the armed forces. In the Carlisle constituency there were 1,710 pupils recorded on the January 2011 school census returns as known to be eligible for FSM or to be service children. The total number of pupils eligible for the pupil premium in the Carlisle constituency may be higher, but it is not possible to identify the number of pupils in each parliamentary constituency recorded as being in care or recorded in the alternative provision census as, in both cases, the returns are provided at local authority level rather than at establishment level.

Schools: Liverpool

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect on schools in Liverpool of reductions in his Department's budget in 2014-15. [86955]

Mr Gibb: In October 2010, the Government announced that funding for schools would be maintained at flat cash per pupil over the spending period. This means that, as the number of pupils rise, the overall budget will rise in line. The Government also announced a pupil premium for deprived pupils, which will rise to £2.5 billion by 2014-15. In 2011-12, Liverpool received £8.88 million from the pupil premium and £12.3 million in capital allocations. Funding levels for individual local authorities beyond 2012-13 have not yet been set.

Secondary Education: Gifted and Talented Children

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of maintained secondary schools had nominated at least one pupil for the Gifted and Talented programme as at the end of each year of the programme. [89503]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold this information in the form requested.

In state-funded primary schools there were 353,865 pupils in the Gifted and Talented cohort, a small decrease from 365,970 in 2010, and representing 8.6% of the school population. In state-funded secondary schools there were 464,040 pupils in the Gifted and Talented cohort, a small decrease from 481,225 in 2010, and representing 14.2% of the school population.

CfBT Education Trust completed its three-year contract with the Department to manage the Gifted and Talented programme on 31 March 2010.

The identification of gifted and talented pupils has always been left to schools. The Government's approach is to give school leaders greater power and control to drive improvement in their schools so that they have the freedom and flexibility to offer tailored educational opportunities that will ensure that the most academically able children receive appropriate challenge and stretch.

Sixth Form Colleges: Safety

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the updated health and safety guidance for schools and local authorities issued in July 2011 also applies to sixth form colleges; and if he will make a statement. [90461]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education's updated health and safety advice to schools issued in July last year summarises how existing health and safety law affects employers, be that the local authority or governing body depending on the type of institution. This advice is not statutory guidance but it summarises the legal duties and powers under health and safety legislation. Sixth form colleges are covered by the same health and safety legislation and may therefore find the updated advice useful to inform their approach to health and safety but it is not statutory.

The DFE guidance is due for review during the summer of 2012 and I will ask officials to discuss it with the Association of Colleges and the Sixth Form Colleges' Forum.

Skerton Community Primary School

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions have taken place between his Department and Lancashire County Council on the future of the Skerton Community Primary School site. [89934]

Mr Gibb: No discussions have taken place between the Department for Education and Lancashire county council on the future of Skerton Community Primary School.

Under Schedule 35A to the Education Act 1996 consent is required of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education before land at a community school can be disposed of or appropriated by a local authority. This applies to any community school land where that land has been used wholly or mainly for such a school in the eight years preceding the date of disposal. This long-standing provision is to allow the Secretary of State for Education to consider the suitability of community school land for use by an Academy or Free School.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration: EU Grants and Loans

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what written representations he has made to Commissioner Hedgegaard on UK readiness to co-finance carbon capture and storage projects under the NER300 process. [91316]

Charles Hendry: None. DG Climate are expected to seek formal assurances regarding member state support for successful NER300 projects in the autumn, before finalising Award Decisions and announcing projects at the end of the year. My officials are in contact with DG Climate to ensure the UK and European processes synchronise.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assurances representatives of the European Commission's DG Climate have sought on the UK's readiness to co-finance carbon capture and storage projects under the NER300 process. [91317]

Charles Hendry: DG Climate are expected to seek formal assurances regarding member state support for successful NER300 projects in the autumn, before finalising award decisions and announcing projects at the end of the year. My officials are in contact with DG Climate to ensure the UK and European processes synchronise.

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91088]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change incurred nil expense in relation to Christmas trees or other Christmas decorations in 2011.

Environment Protection: Employment

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the impact assessment for the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation, what estimate his Department has made of the number of jobs that would be lost in the insulation industry if the average annual take-up rate of *(a)* loft insulation fell from 1,060,000 to 70,000 and *(b)* cavity wall insulation fell from 510,000 to 170,000 installations. [91309]

Gregory Barker: DECC's impact assessment, published in November 2011, estimated that each year, £1.3 billion will be spent by energy companies and over £700 million in private finance on energy efficiency—meaning investment in the sector will be higher than ever before. It estimated that the Green Deal and ECO will support growth in employment in the insulation sector from 27,000 to 65,000 by 2015.

We are currently in the process of updating the impact assessment. This will take account of new research, and developments such as the £200 million announced in the Autumn Statement to drive the early uptake of the Green Deal. The final impact assessment will be published alongside the Government response to the consultation.

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany; on which dates those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90694]

Gregory Barker: The information requested is not held by the Government. Providing an answer would incur disproportionate cost. However, this information is held on the European Commission's EUR-Lex website:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90709]

Gregory Barker: DECC is the lead Department responsible for the following EU directives and regulations which have not yet been fully implemented by the UK Government (this list does not include legislation made by the European Commission; or EU directives and regulations which have been implemented by the UK Government but where implementation remains to be completed by Gibraltar or by the devolved Administrations):

Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (came into force 25/06/2009);

Directive 2009/29/EC to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading scheme of the Community (came into force 25/06/2009);

Directive 2009/31/EC on the geological storage of carbon dioxide (came into force 25/09/2009);

Directive 2009/119/EC imposing an obligation to maintain minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum products (came into force 29/10/2009);

Directive 2011 /70/EURATOM establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste (came into force 22/08/2011);

Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (came into force 28/11/2011).

EU directives and regulations become EU law when they enter into force, which is usually 20 days following their publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. The date for transposition in the UK is usually a year or more later.

European Investment Bank

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to be notified by the European Commission's DG Climate of the relative positions of UK projects in the ranking prepared by the European Investment Bank of proposals submitted under the NER300 process. [91315]

Charles Hendry: DG Climate is expected to approach member states to inform them of the relative positions of their projects shortly after the EIB 9 February deadline. No formal announcements will be made until Award Decisions are made at the end of the year. My officials will be in regular informal contact with DG Climate throughout the year.

Homesun Holdings

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what legal costs his Department has incurred in the case of Homesun Holdings Ltd v Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. [89860]

Gregory Barker: I estimate that the Government have incurred costs of approximately £66,400 to date in relation to the application for judicial review made jointly by Homesun, Solarcentury and Friends of the Earth. In the event that we are successful on appeal we would expect to recover all, or a substantial proportion, of our costs.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much Scottish farmers have received in subsidies from the EU in each of the last five years. [91283]

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much Scottish farmers have received in subsidies from the EU in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [91367]

Mr Paice: The available figures, in euros and relating to the EU CAP finance year running from 16 October to 15 October, are given as follows. They include all payments under the common agricultural policy European agricultural guarantee fund and the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) programmes (direct payments and rural development respectively) and also include the co-financed element of the EAFRD payments funded by the Scottish Government. Figures for the 2010-11 year are provisional.

	€
2006-07	671,471,108
2007-08	791,751,369
2008-09	702,236,975
2009-10	776,975,944
2010-11	825,013,205

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legal obstacles prevent the enactment of a ban on wild animals in circuses in the UK. [90463]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Scunthorpe (Nic Dakin) on 3 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1405-06W. We are also considering the relevance of a judgment of the Austrian Constitutional Court that was published on 21 December 2011 and whether it is relevant to the legal position here.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the recent decision by the Austrian Constitutional Court, whether she has taken further legal advice on the legality of a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses; and if she will make a statement. [91003]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 17 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 734W.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 456W, on animal welfare: circuses, and with reference to the findings of the Radford Report, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of available scientific evidence on which her Department can base its conclusion that it will be possible to introduce a set of enforceable standards that will ensure the welfare of wild animals in travelling circuses. [91371]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 456W.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 733-4W, on animal welfare: circuses, which licensing systems for animal welfare in the UK her Department has considered in its assessment; and what evidence was available to her Department on the efficacy of such licensing systems and their operation. [91374]

Mr Paice: There are currently a number of animal welfare licensing systems operating in England, including for zoos, dangerous wild animals kept in private ownership, pet shops, riding schools, greyhound tracks, kennels and catteries, and dog breeding establishments. In particular, the standards required by the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo

Practice) have been considered in the development of our proposed licensing scheme for wild animals in travelling circuses.

DEFRA keeps all its licensing schemes under review and we are not aware of any evidence that there are any inherent problems with the concept of licensing to safeguard animal welfare.

Animal Welfare: Exports

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency budget was allocated to the inspection of live animal export shipments from UK ports in the latest period for which figures are available. [90233]

Mr Paice: There is no specific budget for the inspection of live animal export shipments from UK ports. While some of this work is carried out by Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) inspectors, the majority is undertaken by private veterinarians appointed as official vets to work on AHVLA's behalf, and these inspections are paid for by the exporter.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency are responsible for inspecting live animal export shipments from UK ports. [90234]

Mr Paice: Resourcing portal inspections is largely dependent upon the number of vehicles coming in, and the risk these represent. As a minimum, portal inspections and supervised loadings are normally undertaken by one inspector although this may change if there are circumstances to warrant it.

These inspections form a very small percentage of the overall work undertaken by Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency staff at ports in GB.

Dangerous Dogs

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; [89945]

(2) what discussions she *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with ministerial colleagues on the powers of local authorities relating to the control of dogs; and if she will make a statement. [89946]

Mr Paice: The issue of dangerous dogs is one that encompasses several Government Departments. In particular, DEFRA Ministers have been in discussion with colleagues in the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Department for Communities and Local Government over the development of a package of measures aimed at promoting more responsible ownership of dogs. Discussions have included powers available to local authorities to deal with the control of dogs. I anticipate further discussions with colleagues on this issue will be taking place.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts her Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if she will make a statement. [75135]

Richard Benyon: The information in the format requested is not held centrally and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost. However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to his previous question which was published on 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 735W.

Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [88008]

Richard Benyon: Since September 2011, the Department has spent the following on recruitment agencies since September 2011 in core DEFRA:

	£
September	26,010.00
October	5,940.00
November	0
1-19 December	0
Total	31,950

These figures comprise of costs involved in using Executive Search Providers, including the outsourcing of recruitment activity to third parties.

Dogs: Tagging

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 363W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth South, on dogs: tagging, if she will publish her Department's assessment of all aspects of microchipping. [90387]

Mr Paice: We are currently working on a package of measures to tackle irresponsible dog owners. This will be announced soon and will include details of the benefits of compulsory microchipping of dogs.

Fisheries

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the effect of reductions in the number of days fishermen can spend at sea on the ability of the UK fishing fleet to use increased quotas of certain fish stocks; [88680]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect of the outcome of the recent EU Fisheries Council on the number of fishing vessels that will be viable in 2012; [88681]

(3) what assessment she has made of the number of fishing vessels in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland that will be affected by the reduction in the number of days fishermen can spend at sea; [88682]

(4) what assessment she has made of the effect of the reduction in the number of days fishermen can spend at sea on the financial viability of the fishing fleet in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK. [88684]

Richard Benyon: At the December Fisheries Council, we achieved an agreement that included significantly larger quota opportunities for British vessels than originally proposed by the European Commission. We also agreed much smaller reductions in days-at-sea for those parts of the fleet subject to the Cod Recovery Plan than were in prospect at the start of the Council.

The effect of the package on different parts of the fleet around the United Kingdom will vary according to the combination of quota and days-at-sea changes that affects different vessels, as well as the extent to which previous days at sea allocations were fully used. Also, the choices made by skippers to maximise their profitability, which may include participation in conservation initiatives that either exempt them from days-at-sea restrictions or allow an increase in their days at sea.

Fishing Catches

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her policy is on over-fishing; what recent representations she has received on the issue; and if she will make a statement; [89879]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the European Commission on over-fishing in EU waters; and if she will make a statement; [89881]

(3) what reports she has received of overfishing in each country in the EU; what discussions she has had with her counterpart in each EU member state on this issue since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [89882]

Richard Benyon: Overfishing puts at risk the long term health of both fish stocks and the livelihoods of fishermen who depend on them; domestically, overfishing by UK fishermen risks prejudicing the legitimate fishing opportunities of other UK fishermen. It is therefore important that there are effective and dissuasive measures in place to discourage overfishing and, where it does occur, to penalise transgressors. This may include criminal prosecution as well as a requirement to pay quota penalties and to compensate others prejudiced by such actions.

In discussions with the EU Fisheries Commissioner and Ministers from other EU countries, I have made clear we must have a Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) that safeguards our fish stocks for the future, for the benefit of both fish stocks and fishermen. This must be a fundamental demand of CFP reform.

Forestry Commission

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the relevance to her Department's policies of the recommendations in the report commissioned by the Forestry Commission Scotland and the Scottish Government on supporting biomass electricity in the Renewables Obligation (Scotland); and if she will make a statement. [90256]

Mr Paice: The Government Bioenergy Strategy, due for publication shortly, will set out the framework for future UK bioenergy policy and, along with evidence received as part of the consultation process, will support the Renewable Obligation Review. The Scottish Government have been providing their views on the strategy, drawing on the carbon research recently published by Forestry Commission Scotland. That evidence, alongside other issues, will be considered as part of the continuing development of the strategy.

Habitats Regulations

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect of the Habitats Regulations between July 2011 and 29 November 2011; and on what dates any meetings to discuss this matter took place. [90348]

Richard Benyon: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had a number of discussions with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer between July 2011 and 29 November 2011 on the implementation of the Habitats Directive.

Hydroelectric Power

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applicants for hydro-electric power schemes there have been; and what progress she has made with the Nene Valley Hydro group scheme. [90624]

Richard Benyon: In 2011 the Environment Agency received 203 pre-applications and 101 formal applications for hydro-electric power schemes for England and Wales.

The Environment Agency's account manager for hydro power proposals has been in regular contact with the Nene Valley Hydro Group regarding their proposals for hydro schemes at six sites along the River Nene. The Environment Agency has attended a number of meetings with the group to discuss both general principles and site specific details. These discussions have enabled the group to progress its most advanced scheme (Hardwater Mill) and the Environment Agency continues to support the group further in the implementation of its other proposals.

Lakes and Reservoirs

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to encourage farmers and landowners to excavate and install lakes and reservoirs. [90192]

Mr Paice: The Water White Paper published last December summarised the Government's support to farmers to improve the management of water resources, including by the building of reservoirs. DEFRA's surveys show that around one third of farms which are equipped to irrigate in England already have winter storage reservoirs. The Government encourage farmers to invest in building safe reservoirs through a number of measures, which include:

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), which has provided support for water management, including supporting the construction of 41 on-farm reservoirs and providing information and training on irrigation and soil management. Water management continues to be one of the measures supported by the new nationally consistent RDPE funded schemes. These are the Farming and Forestry Improvement Scheme, a small grants scheme launched last November, and the Rural Economy Grant, which is a grant scheme for larger projects to be launched in early 2012.

The Environment Agency can provide advice on positioning and construction methods for reservoirs to help farmers ensure they are safe and fit for purpose. The Government are working with the Environment Agency to develop technical guidance for farmers.

The Farming Advice Service has expanded the scope of its advice from 1 January 2012 and includes advice on abstraction licensing and on climate change adaptation, including water management.

The Water White Paper also gave further information on the Government's commitment to reform the abstraction management regime. A key objective of this reform is to provide clearer signals to abstractors such as farmers to invest to meet water needs and protect water ecosystems, for example, through investment in reservoirs.

The report on the Farming Regulation Task Force included recommendations on the regulation of on-farm reservoirs and on the licensing of abstraction. The Government response will be published early this year and set out our response to these recommendations.

Natural Capital Committee

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what criteria she proposes the Natural Capital Committee will use to determine if natural assets are being used unsustainably; and if she will make a statement; [90811]

(2) what indicators she proposes the Natural Capital Committee will use to report to Government on the state of natural capital in England. [90813]

Richard Benyon: The Natural Capital Committee will advise the Government on the state of English natural capital and it will be set up initially for the duration of this Parliament. Recruitment for the positions of Chair and Members of the Committee is under way. Once this is completed it will be for the Committee, as an independent advisory body, to develop suitable methodologies and approaches that will enable it to advise the Government in accordance with its remit, including in relation to unsustainable use of natural capital.

Endangered Species

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to stop the sale of endangered species as pets. [90596]

Richard Benyon: The UK Government are a party to the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES), which seeks to regulate commercial trade in specimens of listed species of wild fauna and flora in order to ensure that any trade in endangered species is not detrimental to their long-term survival. However, those species most at risk are listed on appendix I of CITES, and their importation for commercial purposes, including their sale as pets, would be prohibited under CITES the sale of endangered species taken from the wild can be allowed as long as it is sustainable.

Rivers: Surrey

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of river flows in Surrey and West Sussex; and if she will make a statement. [90207]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency continuously monitors river flows of the major rivers in Surrey and West Sussex. River flows are compared to long term averages, mapped and summarised in monthly Water Situation Reports on the Environment Agency's website:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/

The last 15 months in Surrey and West Sussex have been the driest since 1996. However, despite the impact of rain in December, the Rivers Ouse, Adur, Cuckmere and Arun in Sussex and the Mole and Wey in Surrey are either "low" or "notably low" when compared to average flows for this time of year. Low river flows can affect water supplies, business and the environment. The Environment Agency continues to work closely with local communities and the water supply companies to minimise the impact.

The Environment Agency completed a detailed screening of water abstractions in West Sussex and Surrey, as part of the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction initiative. This did not highlight any significant issues, and there is no evidence that unsustainable abstraction is an issue affecting river flows in West Sussex and Surrey. The current low flows being measured and reported by the Environment Agency on their website are caused by the period of significantly dry weather we have been experiencing in the South East.

More broadly the Environment Agency is taking action to investigate and identify solutions to unsustainable abstraction. On 8 December 2011, I launched a new approach to water management as set out in Water for Life, the Water White Paper. In particular it includes a package of measures to help us do this more efficiently and promote increased trading of abstraction licences to support economic growth.

Water: Climate Change

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has assessed the available annual water resource in the UK under the *(a)* 2°C and *(b)* 4°C global temperatures increase scenario. [90805]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA, the Natural Environment Research Council, the Environment Agency and UK Water Industry Research are jointly funding a project to look at changes in river flows and groundwater levels associated with the UKCP09 climate projections. These are not specifically 2°C and 4°C global temperature increase scenarios, but they will provide a useful guide to the range of possible changes in flow. The project will finish in April 2012. Initial results, showing changes in flow in the 2050s for the medium emissions scenario, were included in the recently published "Water for Life" White Paper.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland: Public Appointments

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he plans to announce the appointment of the next Chief Executive of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland; and what account he has taken in the recruitment process of the need to address the under representation of the Protestant community in recruitment to parts of the public sector. [91358]

Mr Swire: The appointment of the chief executive of the Equality Commission is a matter for the Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission and Commission Members.

The appointment process for a new Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission is being conducted in compliance with all relevant statutory duties and guidelines. We hope to announce the result shortly.

TRANSPORT

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of the number of vehicles which used the Dartford crossing in each of the last 18 months; [90533]

(2) what estimate she has made of the amount of toll revenue which accrued from vehicles using the Dartford crossing in each of the last 18 months. [90534]

Mike Penning: The Dartford crossing encompasses the two tunnels and the QE2 bridge and charging applies in both directions. The figures in the table cover the Dartford crossing as a whole. It shows how many vehicles used the Dartford crossing in each of the last 18 months and also how much revenue was accrued in each month, including revenue for the escorting of abnormal loads.

	Total traffic count	*Charging revenue (£)*	*Abnormal load escort revenue (£)*	*Total (£)*
2010				
July	4,812,796	6,691,335.77	33,465.00	6,724,800.77
August	4,697,270	6,447,745.50	27,480.00	6,475,225.50
September	4,444,339	6,241,370.84	26,314.00	6,267,684.84
October	4,490,284	6,324,958.95	26,209.00	6,351,167.95
November	4,065,869	5,791,536.88	25,872.00	5,817,408.88
December	3,498,480	4,993,233.49	15,435.00	5,008,668.49
2011				
January	3,805,979	5,406,725.17	21,777.00	5,428,502.17
February	3,734,975	5,321,204.20	23,753.00	5,344,957.20
March	4,203,915	5,984,303.38	25,074.00	6,009,377.38
April	4,236,731	5,957,905.99	25,053.00	5,982,958.99
May	4,368,283	6,134,077.05	25,642.00	6,159,719.05
June	4,413,877	1,978,882.70	28,686.00	2,007,568.70
July	4,709,028	6,512,431.16	28,098.00	6,540,529.16
August	4,540,045	6,417,089,32	28,603.00	6,445,692.32
September	4,389,117	6,145,307.43	27,699.00	6,173,006.43
October	4,424,600	6,235,793.07	27,870.00	6,263,663.07
November	4,086,868	5,846,369.80	25,042.00	5,871,411.80
December	4,005,654	5,647,548.15	20,309.00	5,667,857.15

Tyne and Wear Metro

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of how much of the cost to the public purse of the Tyne and Wear Metro falls beyond the comprehensive spending review period; [90944]

(2) what estimate she has made of the total cost to the public purse of the Tyne and Wear Metro in each of the remaining years of the comprehensive spending review period. [90945]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 20 January 2012]*: The Department agreed funding with Nexus for the Tyne and Wear Metro on 2 February 2010. This included revenue support funding for the period 2010-11 to 2018-19 and capital grant funding towards the Metro Reinvigoration programme for the period 2010-11 to 2020-21.

The sums are set out in the following tables by year:

Resource Grant

	£ million
2010-11	25.3
2011-12	23.9
2012-13	23.1
2013-14	22.7
2014-15	22.2
2015-16	21.7
2016-17	21.5
2017-18	21.4
2018-19	21.2
Total	203.0

Note:
The above figures are subject to indexation.

Capital Grant

	£ million
2010-11	34
2011-12	35
2012-13	35
2013-14	24
2014-15	23
2015-16	23
2016-17	16

Capital Grant

	£ million
2017-18	15
2018-19	15
2019-20	15
2020-21	15
Total	250

The amounts of Capital Grant set out above represent a firm commitment from the Department to Nexus. In addition, an element of funding (as set out in the following table) is not subject to the firm commitment at this stage and may be subject to adjustment according to consideration of the following factors:

the need to maintain the infrastructure to a condition that enables train services to be provided by the operator as required under the concession agreement;

Nexus's performance to date on delivery of the Asset Renewal Plan (criteria to be agreed); and

affordability within the context of the Department's overall budget.

	£ million
2010-11	—
2011-12	—
2012-13	—
2013-14	7
2014-15	8
2015-16	8
2016-17	15
2017-18	16
2018-19	16
2019-20	15
2020-21	15
Total	100

In addition to the sums set out above, there is a local contribution of 10% of the capital funding.

East Coast Railway Line

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Ministers have been involved in the decision by East Coast Trains to apply to the Office of Rail Regulation for train paths to enable them to extend their two hourly service between London and Newark Northgate. [91331]

Mrs Villiers: East Coast's application to the Office of Rail Regulation to obtain track access rights is a matter for the train operator not for Ministers. East Coast provides train services in accordance with a services agreement with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Any changes to that agreement to exercise new access rights would require ministerial approval. East Coast has not requested any such changes.

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on a rail connection from the Great Western Main Line to Heathrow airport and the proposed High Speed 2 scheme. [89358]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail is currently undertaking an assessment of the proposal to build a rail connection between the Great Western main line and Heathrow airport. This will inform any decision on whether the scheme should progress. On 10 January, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport announced that route options should be developed for a spur link to Heathrow airport to form part of the second phase of HS2, which would be subject to future public consultation. Network Rail is working with HS2 Ltd to assess the potential interfaces between the two schemes.

Highways Agency: Motor Vehicles

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles of each type are available to incident support units in each area of the Highways Agency network; and how many such vehicles of each type were available in each of the last two years. [91310]

Mike Penning: Details of the number of incident support unit (ISU) vehicles available for use on the Highways Agency's network, shown by area and by type, can be found in table "Strategic Road Network—ISUs by Type" which will be placed in the Libraries of the House. The table provides current figures, plus those for 2011 and 2010.

Japan Tobacco International: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in her Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87614]

Norman Baker: No DFT Ministers or special advisers have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International in a departmental or ministerial capacity since May 2010. However, Japan Tobacco International's UK headquarters are based in Weybridge in the constituency of the former Secretary of State for Transport. In his capacity as constituency MP, he received hospitality in the form of tickets for the Chelsea Flower Show in May 2010 and May 2011.

Pearson VUE

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what occasions *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department have met with representatives of Pearson VUE since 25 October 2011; and what future meetings have been scheduled. [90668]

Norman Baker: Neither the Secretary of State for Transport nor other Ministers in the Department have met with representatives of Pearson VUE since 25 October 2011. Nor are any meetings scheduled at present.

Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations are routinely published every quarter and can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings

Pedestrian Crossings: Accidents

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of accidents that occurred on zebra crossings in the latest period for which figures are available. [90955]

Mike Penning: The Department collects information only on reported personal injury road accidents. The number of accidents involving pedestrian casualties that occurred on zebra crossings in Great Britain in 2010 was 764. This total excludes accidents on zebra crossings that did not involve pedestrian casualties.

Pedicabs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations she has received on the application of traffic regulations to pedicabs since June 2010; [90894]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Mayor of London and *(b)* Transport for London on the safety of pedicabs; [90915]

(3) what discussions she has had with *(a)* the police and *(b)* the Secretary of State for the Home Department on parking and traffic offences committed by riders of pedicabs or rickshaws. [90916]

Mrs Villiers: Pedicabs outside London are already regarded in law as "hackney carriages" (taxis) and local licensing authorities have the power to license them under the existing legislation which applies to hackney carriages. However, in London, pedicabs do not fall within the legal classification of a hackney carriage and are therefore not subject to formal licensing controls.

In London, pedicabs are the responsibility of the Mayor of London and Transport for London. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has not received any applications of traffic regulations to pedicabs since 2010.

Enforcement of traffic regulations in London is the responsibility of Transport for London, London borough councils, the Metropolitan Police and ultimately the Home Office.

We have no record of these matters being discussed recently.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the provisions of the Disability Discrimination (Transport Vehicle) Regulations 2006 apply to pedicabs; and what assessment her Department has made of the compliance of pedicabs with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [90914]

Mrs Villiers: The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 has now been replaced by the Equality Act 2010. Section 29 of the Equality Act essentially prohibits discrimination in the provision of services; this would include the provision of a pedicab service.

Pedicabs outside London are already regarded in law as "hackney carriages" (taxis) and local licensing authorities have the power to license them under the existing legislation which applies to hackney carriages. However, in London, pedicabs do not fall within the legal classification of a hackney carriage and are therefore not subject to formal licensing controls.

In London, pedicabs are the responsibility of the Mayor of London and Transport for London. As such the Department has not carried out any specific assessment of compliance with Section 29.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* safety and *(b)* roadworthiness of pedicabs. [90964]

Mike Penning: The Department has made no assessment of the safety and roadworthiness of pedicabs, however, they must comply with the requirements of the Pedal Bicycle (Safety) Regulations 2010, the Pedal Cycle (Construction & Use) Regulations 1983, the Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1989, and if they are electrically assisted, the Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles Regulations 1983.

If an electrically assisted pedicab is over 60 kg unladen weight, then it must also comply with the requirements of the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use Regulations) 1986 (as amended) as it is classed as a motor vehicle and would therefore need to be registered, insured and be issued with the appropriate road fund licence. The rider would also need to hold the correct licence.

Enforcement of these requirements would be a matter for the police.

Port Security

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress she has made on implementing the Port Security Regulations 2009. [90297]

Mike Penning: The Port Security Regulations 2009, which provides for the designation of port security authorities covered by Directive 2005/65/EC on enhancing port security, came into force in September 2009. A consequent pilot implementation exercise resulted in the port at Bristol being designated in March 2010.

Subsequent to scrutiny by the European Commission of the reduced implementation programme that was notified in September 2010, the Department has been reviewing the port facilities in the UK and will set out any changes in implementation shortly. In the meantime, the Department has continued to implement the plan, challenging rigorously the impact to ensure that the regulatory burden is kept to a minimum. As a result, the designation order for the port of Dover will come into force at the end of January, and the remaining ports are now geared to the timing of an evaluation report that the European Commission is due to submit to the European Parliament in December 2013.

In parallel, the pre-existent Port Security Committees and Police Portal Groups across the country have enabled the enhancement of port security ahead of formal implementation at the ports.

Railways: Disability

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK cities do not have disabled access at mainline railway stations. [91346]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. Information about station facilities is a matter for the Association of Train Operating Companies. They provide comprehensive information on accessibility at all stations via the National Rail Enquiries website. This allows passengers to decide if the facilities at a station allow them to access it, based on the individual nature of their disability.

Railways: Exchange Rates

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the foreign exchange rate risk was considered as part of the major projects and rail investment review. [89887]

Mrs Villiers: It is not clear which review the question is intended to relate to. If the reference in the question is to the recent study on rail value for money led by Sir Roy McNulty, I can confirm that foreign exchange risk was not an area highlighted by the report.

The Department performs sensitivity analysis of exchange rate movements, and their repercussions on contract awards, on an ongoing basis.

Railways: Metal Theft

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cases of theft of metal from railways lines there have been in *(a)* Newton Abbot constituency and *(b)* Devon in each of the last three years. [90956]

Norman Baker: Network Rail has advised that it only holds information on metal theft on railway lines at Network Rail route level, rather than in geographical regions. The Devon area now falls within Network Rail's west of England route, for which the number of thefts is shown in the following table.

	Number of thefts
2009-10	13
2010-11	19
2011-12 (to 10 December 2011)	22

Prior to November 2011, Network Rail's western route included Wales. Now that Wales has been a separate route since November 2011, these numbers do not align with previously published route breakdowns.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who she consulted on her decision to alter standards in respect of *(a)* response time to incidents and *(b)* winter maintenance on roads under the jurisdiction of the Highways Agency. [91578]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency is responsible for operating and maintaining the Strategic Road Network (SRN). In respect to service provider incident response the agency has undertaken liaison with its suppliers and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). Discussions have taken place at ACPO/Highways Agency Partnership Board (November 2011) and the North West Police Liaison meeting (September 2011). This liaison was supplemented by the agency's attendance at the Roads Policing Operations Forum on 19 January 2012.

In future, incident management will focus more on clear up times than initial incident response of service providers. With respect to closure procedures for motorway incidents, a review was carried out jointly with the Home Office, ACPO, Department for Transport (DFT) and the Highways Agency. This was undertaken to identify what can be achieved collectively to reduce incident clear up times. A preliminary report published on 19 May 2011 can be found on the DFT website under publications/roads/appraisal and evaluation or via the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/investigation-and-closure-procedures-for-motorway-incidents

With respect to winter service, I can confirm that the Highways Agency has not altered its standards for winter service. Following a review of the efficiency of its winter service, the agency has made minor changes to the winter service specification, to allow its contractors greater flexibility in developing and delivering winter service treatments, while maintaining the same level and standard of service delivered over previous winter seasons.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the volumes of road grit reserves. [91031]

Norman Baker: Total salt stock holdings in Great Britain at the start of December 2011 were just over 2.7 million tonnes, including strategic stockpiles of 539,000 tonnes. This is a significant improvement on the stock levels held in previous years.

Due to the actions on winter resilience this Government have taken, we assess that the country retains an appropriate volume of road salt reserve for any severe winter weather we may encounter.

Travel Information

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to ensure that travel information is available in a variety of formats. [88900]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 12 January 2012]*: Travel information is primarily a responsibility of the transport operators and local government. The United Kingdom has many world-leading information services that operate at national, regional and local level and which cover single modes and multi-modal services.

The UK Government's Transport Direct service provides journey planning between any address, postcode, settlement or transport access point across Great Britain. Journeys can be planned on any mode of transport or combination of modes. Transport Direct can be accessed via the internet, mobile phones and digital television and also, provides numerous services via third parties including the BBC, Visit Britain, the Department for Work and Pensions and the National Trust.

Other providers include Transport for London's journey planner, National Rail, Traveline, the AA, Traffic England, Google and many others. The services include planned services, real-time information, planned and unplanned disruption and fares information.

To ensure these services remain relevant and contemporary and also to encourage the provision of new and user-centred services, the Government encourage the transport industry to create and operate using common standards and protocols in areas such as location and service definition. They are also encouraging the adoption of open data principles with their own and wider industry data to enable the rapid creation of innovative products and services such as those delivered via mobile phone applications and user-generated websites.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will regulate the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by the Government and police. [91364]

Mrs Villiers: The use of unmanned aircraft systems is already covered by the Air Navigation Order 2009 and the Rules of the Air Regulations 2007. Guidance on the use of such aircraft is contained in the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) publication "CAP 722—Unmanned Aircraft System Operations in UK Airspace" which is available from the CAA website.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of air passenger duty on the airline industry. [91034]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government published their response to the consultation on reform of air passenger duty on 6 December.

Air passenger duty is fundamentally a revenue-raising duty which makes an important contribution to the public finances. In meeting their revenue requirements, the Government consider aviation taxes in the round.

My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the potential economic effects of levying variable air passenger duties in different parts of the UK. [91577]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government published their response to the consultation on reform of air passenger duty on 6 December 2011. This can be found online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_airpassenger.htm

The Government are committed to rebalancing the UK economy across the regions and to maintaining the status of the UK as an international hub for aviation. The Government will continue to work with stakeholders to examine the role of the tax system in support of these objectives.

The Department for Transport is also considering regional connectivity and regional airports policy as part of its development of a sustainable framework for UK aviation, which will be issued for public consultation in March 2012.

Banks: Pay

Jason McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to make the bonuses awarded to employees of state-owned and state-funded banks more transparent. [90677]

Mr Hoban: The Government are currently consulting on extending executive pay disclosure arrangements made under Project Merlin to eight executives below board level at all large banks from 2012 onwards. This is in addition to the financial sector-wide remuneration disclosure regime introduced by the Financial Services Authority designed to facilitate better oversight of the relationship between pay and risk. These reforms will help ensure that UK disclosure requirements are the most comprehensive of any major financial centre.

Banks: Unfair Practices

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on the number of cases where banks were found to be in breach of Conduct of Business Sourcebook rules when selling hedging products to clients; [90900]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on the enforcement of the Conduct of Business Sourcebook rules on mis-selling by banks of interest rate swap products to clients. [90901]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers regularly meet with the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to discuss a range of issues. The FSA, as a statutory independent body, is responsible for decisions relating to the Conduct of Business Sourcebook and its enforcement are a matter for them.

Business: Taxation

Karl McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has issued to officials in HM Revenue and Customs on the practice of offering sweetheart deals; and what his policy is on the future of such deals. [91237]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 16 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 495W.

Child Benefit

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average annual saving to the Exchequer of abolishing child benefit for *(a)* higher rate taxpayers and *(b)* third and subsequent children for all taxpayers over the next three years. [91430]

Mr Gauke: Page 12 of the spending review document provides this information for abolishing child benefit for higher rate taxpayers:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_completereport.pdf

An estimate of the saving for abolishing child benefit for third and subsequent children would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Climate Change Levy

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the spending cap to be reached for every policy covered by his Department's Control framework for Department of Energy and Climate Change levy-funded spending. [90810]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Under the terms of the levies control framework, DECC's levies policies have an aggregate annual spending limit as set out in the following table. We are currently working through consultation responses on both the Feed In Tariffs Review and the Renewables Obligation Banding Review and so it is impossible to provide up-to-date estimates of future projections. However, current deployment trends suggest we expect to reach the levies caps in 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Spending review levies budgets

	£ million
2011-12	2,094
2012-13	2,627
2013-14	3,184
2014-15	3,870

Community Development Tax Relief

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Community Development Tax Relief Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [90742]

Mr Gauke: At Budget 2011 the Government announced they will renotify community investment tax relief to the European Commission and consult in advance of renotification on how the scheme can be made more effective.

Co-operatives

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88610]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury will work closely with Cabinet Office, the Mutuals Taskforce and with Co-operatives UK to develop and take full advantage of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

The Mutuals Taskforce is co-ordinating Departments' support for the International Year of Co-operatives, with Co-operatives UK leading the taskforce's work in this area.

Credit Reference Agencies: Scotland

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if his Department will estimate the *(a)* credit rating an independent Scotland would receive from international ratings agencies and *(b)* the 10-year bond spread that an independent Scotland could expect when borrowing. [90723]

Mr Hoban: The judgments involved in assessing credit ratings are a matter for the international ratings agencies. In recent months, the major credit rating agencies have re-affirmed the UK rating at triple-A with a stable outlook. As part of the United Kingdom, Scotland clearly benefits from the UK's strong credit rating. UK Government bond yields are currently at record lows. It would be a matter for credit rating agencies to decide if an independent Scotland would have a triple-A rating, and how the financial markets view the terms of independence could have an impact on its borrowing costs.

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany; on which dates those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement; [90702]

(2) which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90717]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government do not hold the information requested on implementation of EU regulations by France and Germany.

Information on HM Treasury's implementation of regulations is not currently held centrally. I have asked my officials to compile this information to the extent possible and I will write to the hon. Member with details when these are available and deposit a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Excise Duties: Gaming Machines

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the economic effect of the introduction of Machine Game Duty on *(a)* seaside tourism and *(b)* city centres. [90921]

Miss Chloe Smith: The latest assessment of the impact of Machine Games Duty (MGD) on individuals and businesses is available in the Tax Information and Impacts Note published on 6 December 2011 together with draft legislation for MGD.

This publication can be found online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/machine_games_duty.pdf

The detailed tax impact on, and within, specific gambling sectors will be estimated after MGD rates are set.

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of Machine Gaming Duty on *(a)* jobs and *(b)* businesses in the amusement sector. [91243]

Miss Chloe Smith: The latest assessment of the impact of Machine Games Duty (MGD) on individuals and businesses is available in the Tax Information and Impacts Note published on 6 December 2011 together with draft legislation for MGD.

This publication can be found online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/machine_games_duty.pdf

The detailed tax impact on, and within, specific gambling sectors will be estimated after MGD rates are set.

Financial Services

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the quality of data published by banks on their lending activities to businesses in deprived areas; and if he will make a statement; [90738]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of households who do not have *(a)* a bank account, *(b)* a private pension, *(c)* home insurance and *(d)* life insurance (i) in total and (ii) resident in the poorest five per cent. of local authority wards; and if he will make a statement; [90740]

(3) what estimate has been made of the number of adults without access to a bank account in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [90741]

(4) if he will take steps to encourage *(a)* banks, *(b)* payday lenders, *(c)* insurance companies, *(d)* private pension fund providers and *(e)* other financial services businesses to publish their (i) lending, (ii) insurance and (iii) take-up by (A) postcode area and (B) local authority ward area; and if he will make a statement. [90744]

Mr Hoban: The following table from HM Treasury's "Statistical Release: Households without access to bank accounts 2008-2009", shows the most up-to-date figures for the number of unbanked broken down by number of adults and households.

Table 1: Unbanked (without access to transactional account)

	Households without transactional account—positively affirmed no account		*Adults without access to transactional account—positively affirmed no account*	
	Thousand	*Percentage of total*	*Thousand*	*Percentage of total*
2008-09	1,140	4	1,540	3
2007-08	1,280	5	1,750	4
2006-07	1,410	5	1,920	4
2002-03	2,570	10	3,570	8

Data from the Family Resources Survey indicates that in 2009-10, 36% of people aged 16 to 64 in Great Britain (14 million) were contributing to private pensions—38% of men and 34% of women.

In general, the Government do not require businesses to publish data relating to the geographical distribution of their customers.

Gift Aid

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider relaxing the requirement that in order to claim 25 per cent. Gift Aid, charities must write a letter to the donor on each occasion a donated item is sold. [90678]

Miss Chloe Smith: Gift aid applies only to gifts of money. If a donor wishes to give something other than money, gift aid cannot be applied. However, at the suggestion of the charity sector, HM Revenue and Customs has allowed existing gift aid legislation to be applied to the proceeds of charity shop sales. To qualify for gift aid treatment, the charity and donor must agree that the charity is selling the goods as the donor's agent. The donor must be able to choose to keep the sale proceeds if they wish.

Accordingly, charities will write to the donor when they want to make a gift aid repayment claim that includes the proceeds of the sale of the item. If a charity has a number of items to sell on behalf of a donor, the charity need not write multiple letters but can wait until all the items have been sold before contacting the donor.

The charity must inform the donor of the amount raised by the sale so that the donor can make a decision as to whether to donate the proceeds and assure themselves that they have paid, or will pay, sufficient tax to cover the gift aid reclaimed by the charity. Without this information, the donor cannot be said to have made a valid donation for gift aid purposes.

Further information on how the scheme works is available online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift_aid/rules/retail.htm

My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer keeps all taxes, and tax reliefs, under review along Budget timelines.

Income Tax

Mr Raab: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of income tax revenue was derived from the *(a)* first, *(b)* second, *(c)* third and *(d)* fourth quartile of earners in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [91304]

Mr Gauke: Projected shares of income tax liabilities arising for individuals in the four quartiles of the distribution of income taxpayers by total income is provided in the following table. All additional and higher rate taxpayers are in the fourth quartile.

	Share of total tax liabilities (Percentage)	
Taxpayer quartile by total income	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
First	2.6	2.4
Second	8.4	7.9
Third	16.6	15.8
Fourth	72.4	73.9

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes projected in line with the Office of Budget Responsibility's budget 2011 Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

Further information on the distribution of taxpayer incomes and income tax liabilities is published in table 2.4 "Shares of total income (before and after tax) and income tax for percentile groups, 1999-00 to 2011-12", available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-4.pdf

Insurance: Floods

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 140-1WS, on flood risk management, what meetings *(a)* have taken place since 19 December 2011 and *(b)* are planned between officials and Ministers in his Department to discuss progress on ensuring the universal availability of flood insurance from July 2013. [91013]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

The Government remain committed to making sure flood insurance remains widely available, and will continue to work with insurance companies to consider what additional measures might help safeguard the affordability of flood insurance for households. As part of this ongoing work the feasibility, value for money and deliverability of targeting funds to help those most in need will be considered, building on the analysis undertaken by the working groups established after last year's flood summit.

The Government continue to consider options over the winter months with the aim of making further announcements in the spring.

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to review the budget allocated to the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme. [91361]

Mr Gauke: There are no plans to review the budget allocated to the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme at this stage.

Loans

Mr Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money was owed to the UK, and by which countries, in the last year for which figures are available. [90664]

Miss Chloe Smith: The information is as follows:

Bilateral loan to Ireland

It is in our national interest that the Irish economy is successful and its banking system is stable. With this in mind, UK signed an agreement with Ireland for a bilateral loan of £3.2 billion. The first tranche of £403.37 million was disbursed on 14 October 2011.

FSCS loan to Iceland

In November 2008, following the Financial Services Authority's announcement that the UK branch of Landsbanki was in default, the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) began payouts to UK depositors with Icesave. The FSCS made payments of approximately £4.5 billion to UK depositors in Icesave. As at 31 March 2011 these payments were made up of three different tranches:

£2.3 billion for deposit balances up to €20,887 (£16,872) which should have been paid by the Icelandic Depositors and Investor Guarantee Fund (DIGF);

£1.4 billion for deposit balances above £16,872 and below £50,000 which the FSCS is liable for.

£0.8 billion for deposit balances above £50,000 which HM Treasury is liable for.

Therefore the Iceland Depositors and Investor Guarantee Fund owes the UK approximately £2.3 billion. The Government expect this to be repaid in full.

UK's official reserves

As at 31 March 2011, the UK Government's official holdings of international reserves were approximately £53 billion, of which £35 billion were held in foreign currency assets. The majority of these holdings are in bonds issued or guaranteed by national Governments (eg the US, euro area countries and Japan).

Manufacturing Industries

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect of the outsourcing of services in the manufacturing sector on its assessed contribution to GDP in National Statistics over the last 30 years. [90932]

Miss Chloe Smith: The outsourcing of services previously undertaken by the manufacturing sector would have an impact on the composition of measured GDP. However, due to data constraints, no assessment of this impact has been made.

Any statistical impact would result from the movement of the output associated with these services from the manufacturing sector to the service sector. Holding all else constant this would result in a decline in the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP and an increase in the service sector contribution. However, there would be no overall change to GDP itself.

Mortgages

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans his Department has for future regulation of buy-to-let mortgage loans. [90971]

Mr Hoban: The Government recognise the importance of the private rental sector to accommodate people's housing needs. Buy-to-let properties, which currently represent around one third of the privately rented stock, make an important and valuable contribution.

The European Commission has proposed a directive on the regulation of residential mortgages. The Government believe that buy-to-let mortgages should be exempt from the directive.

While the Government continue to negotiate for an exemption for buy-to-let lending from the directive, we are working with industry and the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to limit the impact of any potential future regulation on the buy-to-let market.

Revenue and Customs: Industrial Disputes

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ensure that members of the public are able to obtain assistance and advice on the deadline for online self-assessment returns in the event of industrial action by HM Revenue and Customs employees. [90733]

Mr Gauke: The Government consider that the planned potential industrial action on 31 January is unnecessary.

HMRC has well-established contingency plans in place and is doing everything possible to support customers on the self-assessment online filing deadline.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

David Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the policy of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is on charging penalties for late return if the delay is the fault of HMRC. [90585]

Mr Gauke: In any case where HMRC accepts that a taxpayer has a reasonable excuse for the late submission of a return, legislation allows for any late-return penalty to be removed. It is not possible to say that something always would, or would not, be a reasonable excuse because every case is considered on its own merits. However, if a taxpayer would have submitted a return on time but fails to so as a direct result of a failing or delay by HMRC, HMRC would accept that there is a reasonable excuse and cancel the penalty.

If HMRC do not agree that there is a reasonable excuse, the taxpayer can appeal to an independent tribunal.

Tax Evasion

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of tax evasion. [91033]

Mr Gauke: The Government are determined to tackle tax evasion of all kinds and ensure that the tax system operates fairly and efficiently for all. As part of the 2010 spending review settlement we announced that just over £900 million would be made available to HMRC to step-up their activity in tackling tax loss. For the four-year period from April 2011 HMRC will reinvest £917 million of the savings they make to maximise additional revenues, which will include putting extra resource into tackling both evasion and avoidance. This reinvestment will fund a range of measures which will enable HMRC to bring in around £7 billion each year in additional revenues by 2014-1 5.

Universal Credit: Self-employed

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to introduce minimum pay for self-employed workers when calculating tax credits in respect of the Government's plans for universal credit. [90541]

Mr Gauke: The Government have no current plans to introduce minimum pay for self-employed workers when calculating tax credits in respect of their plans for universal credit.

Unpaid Taxes

Bill Esterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax was unpaid in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of collecting all unpaid tax in each of the next three years. [91376]

Mr Gauke: The amounts of unpaid tax are shown in the HMRC Consolidated Accounts and Trust Statements for each of the last three years. These can be found on the HMRC website. The overall costs of collecting taxes are spread across a number of HMRC business units and it is not possible within the cost parameters to specify the amounts.

VAT

Albert Owen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment HM Revenue and Customs has made of the effect on small businesses of making online submission of VAT returns compulsory from April 2012. [91230]

Mr Gauke: HMRC ran a formal consultation exercise (from 8 August to 31 October 2011) which asked for comments and volumetrics on how those customers might be impacted.

HMRC has published its response to the consultation on its website:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageLibrary_ConsultationDocuments&propertyType=document&columns-1&id=HMCE_PROD1_031788

HMRC also published details of the help and support available to customers on the 'What's New' section of its website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/index.htm

VAT: Fraud

Mr Raab: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of VAT fraud within the EU emissions trading system in each year since 2008. [91305]

Mr Gauke: The total cost to the Exchequer of VAT fraud involving EU emission allowances was almost £300 million, all of which occurred in 2009. HMRC is relentlessly pursuing all those involved and the net loss to the Exchequer will be significantly lower. Anti-fraud legislation has since removed the scope for this type of VAT fraud to be perpetrated.

VAT: Repayments

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many small and medium-sized businesses were rejected repayment agreements in respect of their VAT liability in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 to date; [90526]

(2) how many small and medium-sized businesses were granted repayment agreements in respect of their VAT liability in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 to date. [90527]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available and could be researched only at disproportionate cost.

Working Tax Credit: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many households in Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency in receipt of working tax credit were working less than 24 hours per week in the latest period for which figures are available; [90542]

(2) how many households in Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency will no longer be entitled to tax credits following the introduction of changes to credits from April 2012. [90543]

Mr Gauke: In December 2011, there were around 200 couples with children in Shrewsbury and Atcham in receipt of working tax credit working fewer than 24 hours per week.

HMRC estimate around 1,700 households in Shrewsbury and Atcham will see their tax credit award reduced to zero following changes from April 2012, principally due to the removal of the second income threshold of child tax credit.

CABINET OFFICE

Big Society Capital

Mr Love: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much money Big Society Capital has raised from dormant accounts in banks, building societies and other financial institutions since its inception; what estimate he has made of the amounts that will be raised in each year to 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [91287]

Mr Hurd: The Government have committed that the Big Society Bank will be established using every penny of dormant bank and building society money available for spending in England as identified in the Dormant Bank and Building Societies Act 2008.

The dormant accounts scheme is administered by Reclaim Fund Ltd which has begun to receive dormant account money from a number of banks and building societies since its establishment last year. Reclaim Fund Ltd will hold back a portion of this money to meet claims from customers, and release any surplus for spending on social purposes.

Reclaim Fund Ltd has so far released £47.6 million for spending on social purposes. This money will be apportioned between the four countries of the UK and the English portion will be transferred to Big Society Capital once it has been authorised by the FSA. Indications are that Reclaim Fund will release a total of around £60 million for social purposes by summer 2012. This will be followed by further releases determined by Reclaim Fund Ltd's independent board and based on the observed rate of reclaim of dormant accounts. The British Bankers' Association estimates that the total amount available in dormant accounts may be of the order of £320-400 million.

Charitable Donations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to incentivise employers to offer payroll giving opportunities to their employees; and if he will make a statement. [91423]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has been gathering views from Payroll Giving agencies (the charities that process employer donations) as well as existing online giving providers and key sector groups with a view to understand ways in which the Payroll Giving system might be improved.

The National Payroll Giving Excellence Awards were successfully re-launched in October 2011 at 11 Downing Street. This included the announcement of a new Platinum Quality Mark to recognise the very best employer payroll giving work.

The Cabinet Office is looking to work with large public and private sector employers with a view to generate behavioural insights into payroll giving based on their experience.

The Government are further co-ordinating their work on Payroll Giving. The inaugural Payroll Giving Working Group met in early November 2011 and pages have been created on the Civil Pages site for information exchange between Payroll Giving representatives from Government Departments and agencies.

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany; on which dates those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90690]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today by the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, my hon. Friend the Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk), who has responsibility for business and enterprise.

Families

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of children live with *(a)* married (first time marriage), *(b)* married (reconstituted), *(c)* divorced (living with father), *(d)* divorced (living with mother) and *(e)* separated families. [91542]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many and what proportion of children live with (a) married (first time marriage), (b) married (reconstituted), (c) divorced (living with father), (d) divorced (living with mother) and (e) separated families (91542).

The number and type of children in families in the UK can be estimated using the Labour Force Survey. Estimates are provided for dependent children which are those living with their parent(s) and either (a) aged under 16, or (b) aged 16 to 18 in full-time education, excluding children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

ONS normally publishes statistics about children by family type based on who is currently living in the household, and it is not straightforward to determine which adults in a family are birth parents of a particular child or whether married adults are in a first marriage or remarriage. In the table below, married couple families and cohabiting couple families include families where:

neither, one or both parents are birth parents; or

neither, one or both parents have been previously married.

Dependent children by family type, UK 2011

Family type	*Estimate (thousand)*	*Percentage of children*
Married couple family	8,151	62
Civil partner couple family	9	0
Cohabiting couple family	1,839	14
Lone father—divorced	83	1
Lone father—other marital status	147	1
Lone mother—divorced	713	5
Lone mother—other marital status	2,212	17
Total	13,153	100

Notes:

1. Estimates do not sum exactly due to rounding.

2. "Other marital status" includes single (never married), married (separated), widowed, civil partner (separated) and surviving civil partner (partner having died).

3. Cohabiting couple families also include same-sex cohabiting couples.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many and what proportion of children live in more than one household; [91543]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effect of the number of children living in more than one household on the accuracy of national statistics concerning children. [91544]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking:

1. how many and what proportion of children live in more than one household (91543);

2. what estimate he has made of the effect of the number of children living in more than one household on the accuracy of national statistics concerning children (91544).

The Office for National Statistics does not routinely publish estimates of the number or proportion of children who live in more than one household. However, two sources, an article about children with a non-resident parent, and the 2001 census can provide some information. Two further sources will be able to provide such an estimate in the future; the 2011 census and the longitudinal survey Understanding Society.

A. Article 'Children with a non-resident parent'

The article 'Children with a non-resident parent' published by ONS in Population Trends 140, see:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/population-trends-rd/population-trends/no--140--summer-2010/index.html

estimated from survey data that 3.8 million, or 30 per cent, of dependent children in Great Britain had a birth parent not living in the household in 2009. This figure will be much higher than the number of children living in more than one household because it was estimated that over half of such children never stay overnight with their non-resident parent. Only 18 per cent of children with a non-resident parent were estimated to stay with them at least once a week, so the majority of children with a non-resident parent may be considered as living in one household. There is no agreed definition of how much time a child would need to spend staying in a second household for them to be considered as 'living in more than one household'.

B. 2001 census

It is possible that a child may be enumerated twice in a census, where two parents living in separate households both complete a census form for the same child. Following the 2001 census, research using the Longitudinal Study (LS) showed that a very small proportion of LS members (0.38 per cent) had been enumerated more than once in the census. Of these, less than 5 per cent were children of separated or divorced parents who were enumerated as living with both parents, see:

http://celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/documents/LS10.pdf

p95-97.

Therefore the only way that children living in more than one household could affect the accuracy of national statistics concerning children is because population estimates for mid-2001 onwards are based on the 2001 census. However, it is very unlikely that any further double counting could have entered the population estimates between mid-2001 and mid-2010 through the components of birth or migration since 2001.

C. 2011 census

The 2011 census asked for all residents in England and Wales, including children, 'do you stay at another address for more than 30 days a year?'. If the response was 'yes', the respondent was asked to provide the address and also asked about the type of second address, one listed response category being 'another parent or guardian's address'. Analysing answers to these questions once 2011 census statistics are available will provide an insight to the number of children who live in more than one household.

ONS has developed robust methods to adjust for double counted children enumerated at both parents addresses from published 2011 census statistics so that children living in more than one household are only counted once. Therefore the impact on population estimates for children and on survey estimates relating to children is expected to be minimal from 2011 onwards.

D. Understanding Society

Information on shared parenting arrangements in Great Britain is being collected in 'Understanding Society', a longitudinal household panel survey, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and led by the Institute of Social and Economic Research, with the survey work delivered by the National Centre for Social Research, see:

www.understandingsociety.org.uk/

ONS is contributing to improvements in the wording of questions on shared parenting in the Family Networks and Child Maintenance modules for Wave 5 starting in 2013 to ensure that the number of children who are resident in more than household because their parents do not live together is estimated as well as possible. Therefore it is expected that information on children living in more than one household will be available from this data source in future. However this is not an ONS survey, so ONS is not able to comment on the statistics about children from this source.

Shift Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information his Department holds on the number of people who worked night shifts in each of the last 30 years. [90895]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many workers worked night shifts in each of the last 30 years. [90895]

The available information is provided in the table. Estimates prior to 1992 are not available. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are not seasonally adjusted. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

People working permanent night shifts, three months ending June, 1992 to 2011, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Thousand
1992	272
1993	310
1994	357
1995	360
1996	373
1997	363
1998	391
1999	440
2000	445
2001	430
2002	429
2003	418
2004	428
2005	412
2006	422
2007	386
2008	388
2009	348
2010	378
2011	338

Source:
Labour Force Survey.

Social Impact Bonds

Mr Love: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Government has invested in social impact bonds in the latest year for which figures are available; what estimate he has made of the level of such investment in each succeeding year to 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [91285]

Mr Hurd: The Government have not so far acted as an investor in social impact bonds, and have no plans to do so.

However, in September 2010 the Ministry of Justice launched the world's first social impact bond at Peterborough prison, targeting reduced rates of reoffending. Around £5 million of capital was raised from social investors and is being used to pay for services in the prison and outside in the community. Outcome-based payments to investors, linked to the success of the project in reducing reoffending, are capped at around £8 million and will be made by the Ministry of Justice and the Big Lottery Fund.

The Government are also supporting work on other social impact bonds. This includes four potential pilot projects targeting troubled families being developed at the local level with support from the Cabinet Office. The local authorities involved are Westminster city council, the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Leicestershire county council and Birmingham city council.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the Big Society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91387]

Mr Hurd: Departmental business plans set out clear priorities across Government, including what we are putting in place to support the growth of Big Society, and we continue to report publicly on progress against these priorities at:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/transparency/srp/

Within Cabinet Office this includes reporting progress on initiatives such as Community Organisers, Community First, National Citizen Service, and Big Society Capital.

In addition we are carrying out full evaluations of key Big Society programmes such as National Citizen Service to determine its effectiveness in creating a more engaged, cohesive and responsible society. Such evaluations will be fully published in due course at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Voluntary Work: Conditions of Employment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the recommendation of the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations Commissioner on Big Society that the Employment Rights Act 1996 should be amended to extend employees right to take reasonable time off, with the permission of their employer, to serve a voluntary organisation; and if he will make a statement. [91422]

Mr Hurd: The Giving White Paper made clear that the Government fully support and encourage organisations making time available for employees to volunteer. The Government have also made their ambitions clear with their commitment to turn the civil service into a civic service, supporting civil society organisations. This will encourage civil servants to give time by providing them with opportunities to use their skills and using volunteering as a means of learning and professional development both in terms of gaining new skills and experiences and also better understanding of the impact of Government policies on the civil society sector.

Under Every Business Commits, we are also challenging businesses to take action on priorities including promoting employee well-being and engaging with communities, with Government committing in return to encourage enterprise and reduce red tape to create the best conditions for businesses to succeed.

Working Hours

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information his Department holds on the average number of hours worked by full-time workers in each socio-economic group in each of the last 30 years. [90896]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the average number of hours worked by full-time workers in each socio-economic group in each of the last 30 years. [90896]

The table provides the information requested for the July to September quarter each year from 1992 onwards. Estimates prior to 1992 are not available. The National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification is an occupationally based classification. In 2001 the occupation classification used in the Labour Force Survey changed from SOC 1990 to SOC 2000. As a result it is not possible to provide consistent socio-economic occupation groups.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are not seasonally adjusted. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Average number of weekly hours[1] worked by full-time[2] workers in each socio-economic group. Three months ending September, 1992 to 2011, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Hours worked

	Employers and managers (lge est.)	*Employers and managers (sml est.)*	*Prof workers (self-employed)*	*Prof workers (employees)*	*Intermediate non-manual workers*	*Junior non-manual workers*	*Personal service workers*	*Foreman and supervisors (manual)*
1992	37.7	43.6	42.8	37.7	32.9	33.5	34.3	37.7
1993	37.8	43.6	44.5	38.1	32.5	33.7	33.8	38.6
1994	37.8	43.8	43.9	37.6	33.0	33.5	34.4	39.0
1995	37.9	43.3	42.4	38.1	33.2	33.6	34.7	39.3
1996	38.2	43.5	43.3	38.5	33.7	34.0	33.8	38.7
1997	38.4	43.9	41.9	38.3	33.3	34.1	33.9	38.7
1998	38.5	43.0	40.6	38.1	33.5	34.0	33.9	39.5
1999	38.2	42.5	41.4	38.1	33.8	34.0	33.0	39.0
2000	38.2	41.8	42.3	38.1	33.3	33.7	32.3	38.3

Hours worked

	Skilled manual workers	*Semi skilled manual workers*	*Unskilled manual workers*	*Own account workers*	*Farmers (employers and managers)*	*Farmers (own account)*	*Agricultural workers*	*Members of armed forces*	*All socio-economic groups[3]*
1992	37.4	35.8	35.8	42.0	60.9	63.6	44.9	37.3	37.2
1993	37.7	35.8	35.7	42.9	60.5	62.4	44.4	34.2	37.3
1994	38.5	36.1	36.2	43.1	64.0	63.7	46.4	38.9	37.7
1995	38.2	36.0	36.3	42.5	62.0	63.6	46.5	37.2	37.6
1996	38.8	35.9	36.3	42.7	62.2	62.2	47.4	39.1	37.8
1997	38.6	36.2	36.9	42.2	65.3	62.8	45.1	40.3	37.7
1998	39.3	36.5	36.5	41.5	62.7	61.2	47.1	39.6	37.7
1999	39.1	36.2	36.1	41.7	61.6	61.5	47.2	37.9	37.5
2000	38.4	36.1	36.2	41.6	61.7	64.7	46.1	38.9	37.1

Hours worked

	Higher managerial and professional	*Lower managerial and professional*	*Intermediate occupations*	*Small employers and own account workers*	*Lower supervisory and technical*	*Semi-routine occupations*	*Routine occupations*	*All socio-economic groups[3]*
2001	38.2	35.7	33.3	44.3	38.3	35.0	38.0	37.1
2002	38.4	35.6	32.8	43.6	37.7	35.1	38.0	36.9
2003	38.6	35.1	32.9	43.1	37.4	35.0	37.5	36.7
2004	38.1	34.9	32.9	42.7	37.6	34.3	37.1	36.4
2005	37.8	35.1	33.5	42.0	37.5	34.5	37.6	36.5
2006	38.0	34.9	33.1	41.9	37.3	34.1	37.5	36.4
2007	38.0	35.2	33.2	41.4	37.6	34.9	37.4	36.5
2008	38.2	35.4	32.8	41.5	37.2	34.2	37.4	36.4
2009	37.6	34.8	33.0	41.2	37.0	34.0	36.9	36.1
2010	38.0	35.3	33.4	41.5	37.2	33.8	36.9	36.4
2011	38.6	35.5	33.0	41.7	37.4	35.1	37.2	36.5

[1] Main job only.
[2] The full-time classification is based on the respondents' self-classification.
[3] Includes those who did not state their socio-economic group.
Note:
The National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification is an occupationally based classification. In 2001 the occupation classification used in the Labour Force Survey changed from SOC 1990 to SOC 2000. As a result it is not possible to provide consistent socio-economic occupation groups.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91094]

Robert Neill: In 2011 the *(a)* Christmas tree and *(b)* other Christmas decorations were supplied at no cost to the Department.

I also refer the hon. Member to my answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 941W, on Scrooge and politically correct Grinches.

Council Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to provide funding to deal with the backlog of capital works needed to council housing; and what his policy is on the provision of such funding through rent rises. [89591]

Andrew Stunell: Last year, my Department allocated £1.6 billion over the current spending review period to 46 local authorities in England to help them address the backlog of council housing that has yet to meet the Decent Homes standard.

The number of non-decent local authority dwellings across England was 217,100 on 1 April 2011, a 26% decrease from 291,600 on 1 April 2010.

Rental income is another means by which local authorities can raise revenue for improvement work, but this is a matter for each individual authority to decide.

Council Tax: Sefton

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on the income of Sefton borough council of proposed reform of council tax. [91321]

Robert Neill: The Government's assessments of the impact of the reforms of council tax, including those in the Local Government Finance Bill, are published at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/2053960.pdf

and

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/2053909.pdf

Electoral Register: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has had discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister on the potential effects of funding reductions by his Department on budgets for voter registration. [91178]

Robert Neill: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the Cabinet Office to discuss a range of matters.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much money from the European regional development fund has been *(a)* contracted and *(b)* paid to projects in each region to date; [86452]

(2) how much funding from the European regional development fund remains to be allocated in each region. [86586]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 13 December 2011]*: The Government are on target with the current European regional development fund programme. Funds must be spent by 2015 and we have already invested some two-thirds of the moneys at a point when we are two-thirds of the way through the duration of programme. All areas have meet their 2011 spend targets. Recent funding calls have attracted high levels of interest, which reinforces the fact that we are on track to spend the remainder of the programme on target.

I would note that the claims made by the hon. Member in his recent party political press release were wholly inaccurate. Indeed, under the last Administration, the European regional development fund was plagued by a legacy of poor administration, and the coalition Government have overhauled the management of these schemes that we have inherited.

We have ensured that the European Commission lifted an interruption on the programme which it had ordered. These steps will also protect taxpayers from the prospect of large 'financial corrections' being levied due to poor administration, as happened under the 2000-06 European regional development fund programme. The operation of the fund is governed by complex European regulations and comes with stringent penalties if those are not met. Our firm action is helping to reduce the size of the liabilities that we inherited from the 2000-06 programme, as well as ensuring better management of the 2007-13 programme that we have inherited, by bringing it in-house and tighter audit processes.

To place the shocking mismanagement of the last Administration in context, as outlined in the answer of 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 448W, a total £101.3 million of funding was lost through financial corrections and unrecoverable amounts arising from irregularities from the European regional development fund 2000-06 programme throughout the period 2000-11. Such losses effectively mean less money to invest in regeneration and growth.

As noted in a recent departmental press notice, this Government inherited potential liabilities for European regional development fund projects between 2000 and 2006 estimated to be as high as £236 million, of which the Department has accepted that £38.1 million of this could not be recovered (this is included in the £101.3 million figure in the paragraph above).

At the end of December 2011, my Department has managed to reduce the remaining figure (£198 million) to a total of £67 million (a reduction of around £131 million) and is continuing to seek recovery of the remaining amount.

To ensure that we continue with tighter levels of control for the 2007-13 programme we have taken on independent auditors, Moore Stephens, to identify irregularities in existing claims to the European Commission; and we have overhauled the audit process to minimise errors in future claims.

As at 30 November 2011, the following sums from the current European regional development fund 2007-13 programme had been contracted for, and paid to each part of England:

		£
Local area	*Contracted*	*Paid to projects*
East Midlands	128,925,000	65,899,074
East of England	67,491,699.63	32,266,355
London	112,117,174	77,615,389
North East	202,170,235	126,871,643
North West	445,100,000	273,744,864
South East	12,971,315.80	6,550,148
South West (Competitive Programme)	57,584,633	27,918,003
South West (Convergence Programme)	290,253,287	126,691,760
West Midlands	187,242,945	84,451,352
Yorkshire and Humberside	266,322,045	162,069,156
Total for all England	1,770,178,334.43	984,007,774

As at 30 November 2011, the remaining sums from the current programme are to be allocated are listed in the following table. Again, I would note that we are on track and on target, given the timetable of the programme.

Local area	*To be allocated (£)*
East Midlands	103,200,000
East of England	28,348,013
London	46,080,472
North East	119,640,235
North West	180,800,000
South East	8,350,940
South West (Competitive Programme)	48,829,742
South West (Convergence Programme)	100,766,724
West Midlands	157,864,877
Yorkshire and Humberside	237,816,539
Total for all England	1,031,697,560

As described in the written ministerial statement by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my noble Friend, Baroness Hanham, of 3 February 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 86WS, local management committees, in which Local Enterprise Partnerships, local authorities and other local bodies are heavily involved, are charged with making decisions about where funding can best be used. European regional development fund officials are working alongside local partners in the individual fund programme areas to make sure that fund investment is taken up.

The Government are taking a number of steps to promote match funding. My Department has carried out an exercise to identity further potential sources of match funding across Government. Last month, Ministers from my Department and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills wrote to all the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the Local Management Committees which now oversee European regional development fund funding locally to remind them of the availability of match funds from within government through programmes such as the Manufacturing Advisory Service, Business Coaching for Growth and UK Trade International. We have set up innovative approaches to bring in more funding, for example through the regional growth fund and growing places fund.

As announced in November's national infrastructure plan, we have also taken the initiative of using the current programme to support actively the roll-out of super-fast broadband, and my Department has been liaising with Broadband UK and the pilot broadband projects.

EU Law

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88963]

Robert Neill: In 2010, the following measures originating in EU requirements were enacted by DCLG:

The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1456).

In 2011, the following measures originating in EU requirements were enacted by DCLG:

Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 2011/2741)

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (SI 2011/1824)

The Architects (Recognition of European Qualifications) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/2008)

The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/2452).

The following provisions in the Localism Act 2011 are intended to ensure that EU regulations and directives are transposed into English law in the context of neighbourhood planning:

paragraph 2 of schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011 inserted sections 61E9(8), 61K(b) and (c) into the 1990;

paragraph 5 of schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011 inserted section 38A(6) into the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; and

Schedule 10 of the Localism Act which inserted paragraph 8(2)(f) of new schedule 4B into the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which EU *(a)* directives, *(b)* regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting his Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89687]

Robert Neill: The following EU legislation affecting this Department requires transposition into UK law:

The directive on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (85/337/EEC) (the EIA directive) and the directive on conservation of natural habitats of wild flora and fauna (92/43/EEC) (the habitats directive) require transposition in relation to proposals for neighbourhood development orders made under schedule 4B of the Town And Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by schedule 10 of the Localism Act 2011). There is no cost to the public or private sector from implementation.

Articles 3(2) (b) to (d) of the birds directive (2009/147/EC) requires further transposition following infraction proceedings. DEFRA is the lead Department.

The energy performance of buildings directive (recast) (2010/31/EU) requires transposition by 9 July 2012 and must be progressively implemented from 9 January 2013. The total cost of implementation will be £4.1 million over a 30-year period. This cost falls almost exclusively on the public sector.

The Construction Products Regulation (EU No 305/2011) comes fully into force on 1 July 2013. Although the substantive provisions are directly effective and do not require transposition, some domestic implementing measures may be needed to ensure that the regulation applies compatibly with domestic law. There is no cost to the public or private sector from implementation.

The estimate of the cost of the cost of these measures is £4.1 million over a 30-year period.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany; on which dates those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90692]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held by Her Majesty's Government. Providing an answer would pose a disproportionate cost. However, this information is held on the European Commission's EUR-Lex website:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90706]

Robert Neill: All EU regulations for which my Department is responsible, and that are due, have been implemented.

European Regional Development Fund

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to ensure that regions of England access all funds available under the European regional development fund. [88537]

Grant Shapps: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Blackpool South (Mr Marsden) today, PQs 86452 and 86586.

Fire Services: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital cost was of the Eastern Region Fire Control Centre in Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [91007]

Robert Neill: The revenue costs for the East of England Regional Control Centre building in Waterbeach, Cambridge for 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 are shown in the table. No capital costs for the Regional Control Centre building were incurred in these three financial years.

In 2011 DCLG have reduced the facilities management costs for the buildings by 25% and utilities by 35%, and will look to make further savings where appropriate.

	Revenue[1,2] *(£)*
2009-10	1,811,315.51
2010-11	1,999,452.93
2011-12	2,182,591.60

[1] Revenue includes: Rent and Service Charges, Fixed Maintenance and Utilities.

[2] Vat is included in payments made from 1 January 2011.

I note that page 8 of the National Audit Office report of 1 July 2011, HC 1272, on "The Failure of the FiReControl project", states:

> "The Department's failure to manage the project as a whole has resulted in the creation of empty regional control centres. The nine regional control centres were purpose-built to house the new computerised equipment and were designed specifically for that purpose. The Department's decision to prioritise the procurement of the centres over the IT system at an early stage meant that the first centres were completed in June 2007, just three months after the IT contract had been awarded."

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the disposal of the Eastern Region Fire Control Centre building in Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire; and if he will make a statement. [91008]

Robert Neill: I am due to meet Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Authority shortly to discuss a number of issues including the future of the control centre building at Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire.

I note the observations of the National Audit Office report of 1 July 2011, HC 1272, on "The Failure of the FiReControl project". It states:

> "The FiReControl project was flawed from the outset because it did not have the support of those essential to its success—local Fire and Rescue Services. The Department rushed the start of the project, failing to follow proper procedures. Ineffective checks and balances during initiation and early stages meant the Department committed itself to the project on the basis of broad-brush and inaccurate estimates of costs and benefits and an unrealistic delivery timetable, and agreed an inadequate contract with its IT supplier. The Department under-appreciated the project's complexity, and then mismanaged the IT contractor's performance and delivery. The Department failed to provide the necessary leadership to make the project successful, over-relying on poorly managed consultants and failing to sort out early problems with delivery by the contractor. The Department took a firmer grip of the project from 2009 and terminated the contract in December 2010 to avoid even more money being wasted." (National Audit Office press release, 1 July 2011).

Our aim is to achieve the best possible value for money for the taxpayer from the control centre buildings. Our preference is for fire and rescue authorities to use the buildings as they are purpose built for them. The decision as to whether fire and rescue services use the buildings is entirely a local matter and where local fire and rescue authorities decide this is not the best way forward for their communities, then DCLG will market the buildings more widely, including to other emergency services.

First-time Buyers

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many first-time buyers have participated in the *(a)* FirstBuy Shared Equity and *(b)* New Build HomeBuy scheme since it was launched. [89166]

Grant Shapps: The FirstBuy shared equity scheme will help an estimated 10,500 aspiring home owners in England by 2013. The FirstBuy prospectus was published by the Homes and Communities Agency in April 2011 and allocations were announced in June following the bidding competition. The contracts were signed over the summer, with the first homes being available for sale from September 2011.

Official statistics on this scheme are published by the Homes and Communities Agency bi-annually in June and November for the preceding March and September respectively. Figures published in November 2011, reflecting that first month of sales and the initial opening of the scheme, show 44 sales to the end of September. This does not reflect the take-up of the scheme subsequently, and I would note that housebuilders have found significant interest from first-time buyers, reporting over 2,500 reservations following the signing of the contracts in the summer.

As an illustration, I note that Persimmon Homes' Trading Statement of 9 January remarked:

> "Take up of the Government's FirstBuy Scheme has been encouraging."

In addition, Barratt Homes' Trading Statement, published on 12 January, stated:

> "FirstBuy, the Government backed equity share product, will remain an important sales tool. We have made good progress in using our initial allocation of £24.9 million (1,400 units) and this success has been recognised by the Homes and Communities Agency through an additional award of £7.0 million (437 units). Shared equity remained an important selling tool throughout the period given the ongoing constraints on mortgage finance. Of these completions, 477 used the Government FirstBuy initiative."

Figures on the New Build Homebuy can be found at:

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/affordablehousing201011

Housing: Wiltshire

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the level of New Homes Bonus funding to be allocated to *(a)* Swindon and *(b)* Wiltshire in 2012-13. [90820]

Grant Shapps: The New Homes Bonus is paid to local authorities in recognition of net additions to their housing stock. It match funds the additional council tax raised using the national average in each band for new homes and long-term empty properties brought back into use, with a premium for affordable homes, for each of the following six years.

The New Homes Bonus provisional allocation for Swindon borough council totals £2,783,259. This includes the second Year 1 instalment of £1,451,214 and the first Year 2 instalment of £1,332,046. It also includes the first affordable homes premium of £98,700.

For Wiltshire council, the provisional bonus allocation totals £4,586,324 and includes the second Year 1 instalment of £1,841,402 and the first Year 2 instalment of £2,744,922. The affordable homes premium amounts to £257,600.

A full list of the provisional allocations has been placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

An announcement will be made shortly on the final allocation figures.

Local Government Finance: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department has provided to Kent County Council in each year since 2005. [90536]

Robert Neill: The total grant funding allocated by the Department of Communities and Local Government to Kent county council is as follows:

Kent

	£000
2005-06	934,411
2006-	268,673
2007-08	286,177
2008-09	375,368
2009-10	380,416
2010-11	390,980

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of:

> formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates);

specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services) (awarded by DCLG only);

specific grants outside Aggregate External Finance (awarded by DCLG only);

Area Based Grant (from 2008-09); and

'other grants' provided by Departments.

These figures are taken from revenue outturn forms provided by authorities after the end of a financial year. It is not possible to disaggregate DCLG element of formula grant, Area Based Grant and other grants from grants from other Government Departments. Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities and changes to funding methodology.

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what economic impact assessment his Department has carried out on the effect of the proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme in *(a)* Washington and Sunderland West constituency and *(b)* Sunderland local authority area. [91548]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Gedling (Vernon Coaker), and the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent Central (Tristram Hunt), on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 23W.

Mobile Homes

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to review guidance issued by his Department on the management of mobile home parks. [91066]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government published model standards for all licensable residential mobile home sites in England in 2008. These are standards to which local authorities must have regard in setting conditions in licences they issue. Authorities having considered the standards are not obliged to adopt them.

The Government are also committed to reforming the mobile home sector and giving residents better rights and protection from unscrupulous site owners. I plan to publish a consultation document in the spring on a range of measures to improve the licensing regime which applies to park home and caravan sites and prevent the unacceptable practice of sale blocking by some site owners.

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to local councils to deal with owners of mobile homes who breach the guidance on the number of homes permitted on a site. [91067]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* Mobile home sites are required to be licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 and use of land for stationing mobile homes on it requires planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. If the number of homes on a particular site exceeds the number permitted under the licence or under the planning permission the local authority can take enforcement action to rectify the breach, including by prosecution if necessary.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish proposals for the regulation of park homes. [90648]

Grant Shapps: The Government are committed to reforming the park homes sector and giving residents better rights and protection from unscrupulous site owners. I plan to publish a consultation document this spring on a range of measures to improve the licensing regime which applies to park home and caravan sites and prevent the unacceptable practice of sale blocking by some site owners.

Non-domestic Rates: Sefton

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on the income of Sefton borough council of his proposed changes to non-domestic rates. [91322]

Robert Neill: The Government's proposals will ensure a stable starting point, so that no local authority will be worse off as a result of its business rates base at the outset of the new system.

The impact of the Government's proposals will depend on a range of factors, including future business rates growth at the local level and the behavioural response to the changes. The proposals incorporate a range of protections to ensure councils can meet local needs, including a safety net for places in need of additional support, funded by a levy recovering a share of disproportionate gain.

These reforms will boost local firms and local jobs as councils are given more autonomy over their own financial circumstances, and rewarded for building stronger relationships with business to strengthen the local economy. They have the potential to increase the aggregate income from business rates, compared to the status quo, due to greater enterprise and economic growth.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Antarctic Treaty

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure the enforcement of the Antarctic Treaty. [91413]

Mr Bellingham: The Antarctic Treaty provides for the designation of observers to carry out inspections to ensure the observance of the provision of the Treaty. The UK has regularly undertaken formal inspections in Antarctica, most recently in 2005-06. Reports of Antarctic Treaty Inspections can be viewed at:

http://www.ats.aq/e/ats_governance_listinspections.htm

Through the Royal Navy's ice patrol vessel, HMS Protector, and the British Antarctic Survey, the UK maintains an active and influential presence in Antarctica, including to ensure that the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty are implemented in the region. Any activities in the Antarctic by those with a relevant British connection require authorisation under the UK's Antarctic Act 1994 and post-visit reports are assessed to ensure full compliance with permit requirements.

Australia: Eagles

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise the effect of intensive logging on the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle population with the Government of Australia. [90595]

Alistair Burt: The British Government remain concerned about the continuing loss of biodiversity globally. We are committed to promoting sustainable forest management and reducing this loss of biodiversity.

The Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle has been listed as endangered in international, national and state legislation, however, this is an issue for the Australian federal and Tasmanian state governments.

On 13 January 2012, the Australian and Tasmanian governments and Forestry Tasmania signed a Conservation Agreement, as part of the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement, to provide legally binding protection for an interim area of almost 430,000 hectares of forest where the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle nests.

Belarus: Freedom of Expression

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Belarus on freedom of expression in that country. [91072]

Mr Lidington: The Government have made a number of representations to the Belarusian authorities both in London and Minsk about the serious human rights situation in the country, including about freedom of expression. The most recent occasions were on 11 and 16 January. I have made numerous statements, for example condemning the fact that new legislation has made it all but impossible for Belarusian citizens to exercise their rights of freedom of expression and assembly, and underlining that the legislation is not in line with Belarus's obligations under international human rights law. I am deeply concerned about the constant harassment of journalists. In a recent EU statement in the OSCE, we and our EU partners urged the Belarusian authorities to stop this intimidation and to ensure that they can carry out their reporting activities in an unhindered way.

British Overseas Territories: Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he expects the Government's target to halt overall loss of biodiversity by 2020 to apply to the British Overseas Territories; and if he will make a statement. [90808]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

As stated in my reply to the hon. Member for Brent North (Barry Gardiner) on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 194W, a new global biodiversity target was agreed at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya in October 2010 as part of the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-20. The Strategic Plan includes 20 headline targets for 2015 or 2020; these are called the "Aichi Targets". Both the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets apply to those Overseas Territories to which the Convention on Biological Diversity has been extended. These are the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

DEFRA has recently published a paper ("The Environment in the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories: UK Government and Civil Society Support"), available to view on the DEFRA website, describing the support available to the Overseas Territories on environmental issues, from the Department, its agencies and civil society. The paper contains 10 commitments that underpin three priority areas for action to support meeting our two environmental objectives for the Overseas Territories. More specifically one of the commitments in the paper is to continue implementing the UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy and to develop an implementation plan to facilitate and co-ordinate delivery of the strategy. Further to this, we are committed to continue to provide advice on the extension of our ratification of multi-lateral environment agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Overseas Territories.

Burma: Political Prisoners

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the health of monk U Sandawbartha, known as U Gambira, recently released from prison in Burma. [91363]

Alistair Burt: We understand from contacts that the health of monk U Sandawbartha, known as U Gambira, has improved. Our embassy in Rangoon is in close contact with many Burmese civil society and democratic activists, including individuals recently released from prison.

Crown Dependencies

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms his Department has put in place to ensure that the contracts it awards relating to Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories go to British companies when there is no suitable local supplier. [90970]

Mr Bellingham: The Government are obliged under EU law to procure goods and services through transparent and fair competition with the successful supplier being selected on the basis of suitability and value for money.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are solely responsible for Overseas Territory affairs; and what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* specific responsibilities are of each such official. [91041]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office employs more than 40 officials in London working solely on Overseas Territories affairs. They are led by the Director for the Overseas Territories (except those engaged on Gibraltar issues) who is supported by four Deputy Directors, six Section Heads and teams of Desk Officers providing thematic and territory-specific advice. Further staff are engaged on financial management and administrative support duties. The Overseas Territories are a priority area of work for the FCO in our Departmental Business Plan.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91085]

Mr Bellingham: Of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) 4,500 UK based staff some 74% are engaged on frontline activity and 26% on corporate and back office services. Frontline staff include all diplomatic activity overseas plus trade and investment and consular services. It also includes all staff dealing primarily with foreign policy from the UK. The 'back office' (corporate function staff) includes finance, human resources, information technology, security and estate management staff.

The FCO also has nearly 8,700 locally engaged staff at overseas Posts of which around 34% are engaged on front line activity and 66% on 'back office' tasks. The back office function at Posts also supports significant numbers of staff from other Government Departments.

Diplomatic Service: Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many unpaid or expenses-only interns there were employed by or based at UK *(a)* embassies and *(b)* consulates since May 2010. [91370]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold data centrally on the number of interns taken on by our embassies and consulates overseas. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Human Resources central guidance provided to FCO embassies and consulates on appointments for internships makes clear that these should be made in accordance with local law and also follow the Civil Service Commission's Recruitment Principles of merit based, fair and open recruitment.

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany; on which dates those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90696]

Mr Lidington: The information requested is not held by Her Majesty's Government. Providing an answer would incur disproportionate cost. However, this information is held on the European Commission's EUR-Lex website at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90711]

Mr Lidington: There are no outstanding EU regulations which my Department should implement, but has not done so.

European Court of Human Rights

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* Departments, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* other stakeholders are consulted prior to the preparation by his Department of observations made in respect of cases affecting UK citizens being heard by the European Court of Human Rights; and if he will make a statement. [90957]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office legal advisers act as agents of the UK Government for applications made to the European Court of Human Rights. When applications against the UK are communicated to them they co-ordinate an appropriate response with the lead Government Department (which will depend on the subject matter), other interested Departments and external counsel. The lead Government Department may consult Ministers as necessary. It is not the Government's practice to submit observations on cases affecting UK citizens which are brought against other contracting states.

Ilois: Resettlement

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 85W, on Ilois: resettlement, what the costs to the public purse have been of defending actions brought by the Chagos Islanders since 1999 *(a)* in total and *(b)* in relation to (i) the 1999-2000 case, (ii) legal aid to the plaintiffs, (iii) staff costs of officials and legal advisers in his Department, (iv) relevant research carried out by the British diplomatic posts in (A) Mauritius and (B) Seychelles and (v) other relevant staff costs. [91070]

Alistair Burt: The cost of legal fees for (i), the 1999-2000 case, was £455,268.44.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff and staff in British diplomatic posts do not keep detailed timesheets of work on different tasks and it is not possible to estimate costs with respect to (iii), (iv) and (v).

I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy in the Library of the House on part (ii) costs of legal aid, when further research has been done.

Libya: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on unrest around the town of Gharyan in Libya. [90616]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is aware of recent reports that a militia from the town of Gharyan clashed with members of a militia from the neighbouring town of Alasabah. Reporting of the incident remains unclear, however, we are aware of at least five deaths. Libyan Defence Minister Juwayli intervened and secured a ceasefire although the situation remains tense. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Nigerian counterpart the effect of unrest and industrial action on disadvantaged communities in that country. [91360]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs does not currently plan to discuss strike action in Nigeria with his counterpart.

The Nigerian Government's decision to remove the subsidy on fuel led to national strike action and protests from 9 January, with some regrettable loss of life. It was suspended on 16 January, following discussions between the Government and unions. President Jonathan made an accompanying statement about his Government's commitment to combating corruption in the petroleum industry and other areas of the Nigerian economy. We recognise the rationale of removing the fuel subsidy, when accompanied by fiscal transparency—so that Government spending can be invested in development programmes and infrastructure that benefits the Nigerian public. It is for the Nigerian Government to manage the effects of such policy decisions on all sections of society.

European Council Accommodation

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the cost to the Exchequer of a new headquarters for the President of the European Council. [90588]

Mr Lidington: The European Council approved the costs for the new headquarters for the President of the European Council in 2004. This Government do not believe that the headquarters represent good value for money. We are told that it would now cost more to cancel the headquarters than to complete them.

The UK is therefore calling for all involved to exercise the utmost economy and efficiency.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assurances he has sought that *(a)* the Somali pirates captured by the Royal Navy in January 2012 and *(b)* Somali pirates captured in future military actions will be subject to a rigorous prosecution process to deter others from engaging in similar actions. [91359]

Alistair Burt: Every encounter with suspected pirates is treated seriously and in each case the Royal Navy will carry out detailed analysis of all the physical evidence and witness statements. If there is sufficient evidence on which to be reasonably confident of achieving a successful prosecution we will make every effort to secure the transfer of suspected pirates for prosecution in the region: it remains our priority to give real support to the countries in the region to deal with the problem of piracy themselves and to deter any engagement with piracy whatsoever. To that end, we are leading international work to build penal, judicial and law enforcement capacities in the region and to tackle the root causes of piracy on land.

Scotland: Independence

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the US Secretary of State on the national security implications for the US of independence for Scotland. [90184]

Alistair Burt: The UK benefits from having Scotland within it and has no plans to discuss with Secretary Clinton the national security implications for the US of independence for Scotland.

HEALTH

Air Ambulance Services

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of future commissioning arrangements for air ambulance services. [90653]

Mr Simon Burns: In England, air ambulances are run and funded by charitable organisations. It is for local national health service organisations to decide whether they commission air ambulances charities.

Air Ambulance Services: Finance

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of air ambulance personnel are funded by the NHS. [90654]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. My hon. Friend may wish to approach individual national health service trusts to ascertain this information.

Benzodiazepines

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what warnings his Department has issued on possible teratogenic effects of the use of benzodiazepines; when such warnings were issued; and on what scientific evidence they were based. [90539]

Mr Simon Burns: There are limited data relating to the safety of use of benzodiazepines in pregnancy and the implications for the unborn child. Clinical trials or studies are not routinely conducted in pregnant women. Consequently, the data available in relation to safety in pregnancy mainly comes from animal studies, spontaneous case reports and practical experience with the medicine over time. Evidence from these sources is carefully evaluated and the relevant information is reflected in the product information.

In 1980, guidance on the use of benzodiazepines was published by the Committee on the Review of Medicines, this included use during pregnancy. In September 1997, the medicines regulatory authority and its advisory committee published further information in the bulletin Current Problems in Pharmacovigilance. This guidance strengthened the guidance previously provided that benzodiazepines are associated with a risk of neonatal withdrawal symptoms if benzodiazepines are used during the latter stages of pregnancy. In addition, it advised that high doses administered during late pregnancy or labour may cause neonatal hypothermia, hypotonia and respiratory depression. It advised that benzodiazepines can also pass into the breast milk of mothers in sufficient doses to cause side effects in the babies and therefore should be avoided, if possible, during breast-feeding.

Benzodiazepines are therefore not recommended for use during pregnancy unless there is clear clinical need for which the benefits to the mother, such as seizure control, are considered to outweigh the risk to the foetus. Any woman of childbearing potential, should be advised to speak with her doctor about stopping the product if she intends to become pregnant or suspects that she is pregnant.

Information regarding use during pregnancy, is provided in the product information for each product. Guidance is also provided in the British National Formulary which is provided free to all prescribes in the NHS.

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91074]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department did not spend any money on Christmas trees or Christmas decorations in 2011.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what occasions since August 2010 he has taken flights on departmental business in the UK; how many of any such flights were made in either first or club class; and who accompanied him on each such flight. [90669]

Mr Simon Burns: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has taken two flights within the United Kingdom in this period. These were for a trip to and from Belfast undertaken in November 2010 for a military health event to which he was accompanied by his parliamentary and principal private secretaries. The flights were in economy class.

Diabetes: Screening

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to introduce universal screening for diabetes in South Asian communities. [90609]

Paul Burstow: The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy. The UK NSC has just commenced a review of screening for type 2 diabetes against its criteria and stakeholders will be given the opportunity to input into the review process once the completed review is posted on the UK NSC website for consultation.

The NHS Health Check programme is aimed at everyone in England between the ages of 40 to 74. It is a risk assessment and risk management programme, which assesses people's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes and supports people to reduce or manage that risk through individually tailored advice. In rolling out this programme, some primary care trusts targeted high-risk groups first such as South Asian populations who are at particularly high risk of diabetes.

The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (2011) guidance on 'Preventing type 2 diabetes through population and community-level interventions in high-risk groups and the general population' makes recommendations for the provision of culturally appropriate messages about preventing type 2 diabetes. The guidance underlines the action that we are already taking to improve public health and reduce the risk of people developing type 2 diabetes.

Drugs: Imports

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the timescales for variations to pharmaceutical licences on UK businesses involved in the importation of medicines from other EU member states to the UK. [90814]

Mr Simon Burns: When assessing variations to parallel import licences, the primary objective of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is to ensure that the proposed change to the product to be imported will have no effect on the therapeutic equivalence of the product to the United Kingdom sourced product. The MHRA is aware that the time taken to approve a variation to a parallel import licence impacts on the business of the parallel importers and has been working to reduce this impact while maintaining its primary responsibility of safeguarding public health. The gross time taken for processing variations to parallel import licences includes waiting time for information from other member states and from the applicants responding to questions from the agency.

Dystonia: Health Services

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the conclusions were of the review by the South West Specialised Commissioning Group (SCG) of funding of deep brain stimulation for severe dystonia; on what basis its review was commissioned; and for what reason it rather than another SCG was chosen to conduct the review. [90545]

Mr Simon Burns: This is primarily a matter for the local national health service.

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany and the dates on which those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90697]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not monitor or maintain records of the implementation of European Union law in other EU member states.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90712]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is responsible for the transposition of the following European Union legislation into United Kingdom law:

Directive 2010/53/EU (Organ transplantation)

Directive 2010/53/EU on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation entered into force on 26 August 2010. The Department intends to implement by the deadline of 27 August 2012.

Directive 2011/62/EU (Falsified medicines)

Directive 2011/62/EU on falsified medicines entered into force on 21 July 2011. The implementation deadline is 2 January 2013. We plan to implement Directive 2011/62/EU on 2 January 2013.

Directive 2010/84/EU (Pharmacoviligance)

Directive 2010/84/EU amending, as regards pharmacovigilance, Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use entered into force on 20 January 2011. The Department intends to implement by the deadline of 21 July 2012.

Directive 2011/24/EU (Cross border health care)

Directive 2011/24/EU on cross border health care allowing EU citizens to seek planned health care treatment in other EU member states entered into force on 24 April 2011. The Department intends to implement by the deadline of 25 October 2013.

Genito-urinary Medicine

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether data on the percentage of appointments at genito-urinary clinics made within 48 hours of the appointment will continue to be collected after April 2013; and if he will make a statement. [90962]

Anne Milton: The Department ran a public consultation on the Fundamental Review of Data Returns, which closed in late November 2011. This review considered all central data returns, including the genito-urinary medicine, 48-hour access, monthly monitoring collection. A response to this consultation will be published shortly.

Health Care: Lifestyles

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had on the recommendations made by the NHS Future Forum about health professionals asking patients about their lifestyle. [90608]

Anne Milton: We welcome the Future Forum's recommendations and will discuss them over the coming months with a range of interested parties.

Health Professions: Finance

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has allocated to the provision of health trainers in *(a)* England and *(b)* Worcestershire in the latest period for which figures are available. [90656]

Anne Milton: The total departmental expenditure to support the provision of the Health Trainer programme in 2010-11 was £609,000. Funding for local areas was distributed by regional hubs.

Health Services: Commissioning

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he proposes for the development of nationally convergent commissioning policies in relation to specialised services; what plans he has for clinical, patient and public engagement with that process; and if he will make a statement. [90544]

Mr Simon Burns: Commitments have been given to primary care trusts that no policy convergence will take place in 2012-13 without their knowledge and explicit support.

A clinical, financial and public patient experience and engagement process is being developed to support policy convergence for 2013-14 onwards.

Health Services: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding he proposes to allocate to Healthwatch in Lancashire in each of the three financial years from 2013-14. [90722]

Mr Simon Burns: Local Healthwatch organisations will carry out all the activities currently carried out by local involvement networks and certain additional functions.

The Government will announce the local government financial allocations each year in the usual way. Funding to support local Healthwatch's additional functions will be allocated as part of the Department's Learning Disability and Health Reform Grant. The funding for the rest of local Healthwatch's functions will be allocated through the local government formula grant.

In addition to this, £3.2 million will be made available in 2012-13 to help with start-up costs for local Healthwatch.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was made available to local involvement networks in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [90772]

Mr Simon Burns: Allocations to individual local authorities for local involvement networks were announced as part of the local government finance settlement for 2008-09. The allocations for Lancashire are in the following table:

	£ million
2008-09	0.454
2009-10	0.455
2010-11	0.456

From 2010-11, funding has been maintained but is distributed via the local government formula grant.

Local involvement networks were introduced in April 2008, under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Government made £81 million available to local authorities between 2008-09 and 2010-11 to support the funding of networks.

Liposonal Dioxorubicin

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to reduce regulations which limit the manufacture and supply of approved drugs such as liposonal dioxorubicin. [90599]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department keeps its stock of regulation under close review and reduces burdens where possible and in line with its public health obligations.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), an Executive agency of the Department, will be participating in the Red Tape Challenge in spring this year. The Challenge encourages feedback on regulatory requirements and processes and the MHRA would welcome comments on any aspect of its approach to regulation, including those that affect the manufacture and supply of medicines for human use.

The MHRA will publish its response to the Red Tape Challenge towards the end of 2012.

Mental Health Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of mindfulness-based practices on levels of *(a)* mental health, *(b)* depression and *(c)* physical health. [90898]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 3 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1406W, which outlines the research that has been carried out on this treatment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has evaluated and recommends the use of mindfulness-based therapies as a psychological intervention for the prevention of relapse within its guideline “Depression: the treatment and management of depression in adults”, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. It is also available at the following address:

www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12329/45888/45888.pdf

Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the recommendations on the mental health of veterans in the Fighting Fit report will be implemented in full. [91414]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are making excellent progress in relation to the recommendations of the Fighting Fit report. The hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison), presented his report “Fighting Fit: a mental health plan for servicemen and veterans” to the Prime Minister in October 2010. The Government subsequently announced that they wished to see the report implemented. In order to do so £2 million was made available in 2010-11 and £1.8 million per year over the following four years for the national health service in England. In his report, the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire made the following veteran-specific recommendations: that the equivalent of 30 whole-time equivalent community nurses, known as veterans’ therapists, be deployed with a remit to ensure that veterans are able to access mental health care; that there be a trial of an online early intervention service for serving personnel and veterans and that a Veterans Information Service be deployed 12 months after a person leaves the armed forces.

To take each of these in turn:

In relation to the whole-time equivalents, the provision of 30 mental health nurses dedicated to helping veterans with mental health problems is being taken forward regionally: each of the original 10 strategic health authority areas is covered by an Armed Forces Network. Within each Network, the NHS and Combat Stress are working together to develop integrated services for veterans with mental health problems. This type of service is now online in two of the 10 Networks: the South-West veterans’ mental health service, and Pennine Care Military Veterans’ service in the North-West. Both of these services will manage cases referred by embedded mental health professionals, general practitioners (GPs) or other agencies. The remaining eight services will be up and running in the next few months.

Turning to the online intervention service for serving personnel and veterans, the Department has funded Big White Wall—an online counselling service—for armed forces personnel, their families and veterans to be able to access peer support, mental health advice and guidance. The uptake of membership of the Big White Wall from the armed forces community is currently exceeding expectations. As of December 2011, approximately 37% of the take-up that can be attributed to the armed forces community users is from veterans.

Lastly, the Veterans’ Information Service is the next phase to take forward. This is currently being developed and will be rolled out in the first half of this calendar year.

It is also important to note that other work has been done to fit in with the hon. Gentleman’s recommendations. For example, we launched the Combat Stress Support Helpline 0800 138 1619 (freephone) on 11 March 2011. The helpline is delivered by the charity Rethink Mental Illness using a combination of time specialist service leads and volunteer staff to operate the phones 24 hours a day, and has significant support from Combat Stress. The Government have given £200,000 to fund the running of a one-year pilot of the helpline.

Finally, an e-learning package was developed in conjunction with the Royal College of GPs to raise their awareness of specific veterans’ mental health issues. This was launched alongside Big White Wall in September 2011.

Mental Health: Employment

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce barriers to employment for people with *(a)* mental health issues and *(b)* learning difficulties. [90671]

Paul Burstow: The cross-Government mental health strategy ‘No Health Without Mental Health’ was published February 2011. Included within the strategy’s high-level objectives is Government’s ambition for “better employment rates for people with mental health problems”. To help to ensure that the objectives of the strategy are implemented across England, the Department of Health is working with a wide range of partners, including the Department for Work and Pensions, to produce an implementation framework in support of the strategy.

We are investing around £400 million in talking therapies over the next four years. All Improving Access to Psychological Therapy (IAPT) services include delivery of employment support. Between July 2010 and September 2011, over 24,000 of those treated on the IAPT programme have moved off sick pay and benefits, while from the start of the programme in October 2008, over 34,000 of those treated have moved off sick pay and benefits.

Employment for people with learning disabilities remains a Government priority. On 16 March 2011, the Department published a suite of practical tools and materials to help drive local delivery of learning, from the demonstration sites, information for commissioners and new best practice guidelines on supported employment. These are published on the British Association for Supported Employment (BASE) website:

http://base-uk.org/sites/base-uk.org/files/[user-raw]/11-06/how_to_guide_-_learning_from_the_vpn_employment_demonstration_sites.pdf

Cross-Government work on employment for young people with a severe learning disability was included in the Green Paper 'Support and Aspiration': A new approach to special educational needs and disability published by the Department for Education on 9 March 2011.

Neurology

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will prepare and publish a national outcomes strategy for long-term neurological conditions. [90969]

Paul Burstow: We have no plans to produce a separate national outcomes strategy specifically for long-term neurological conditions.

However, we are currently working to produce a generic national outcomes strategy for long-term conditions, including neurological conditions. This strategy will look at all of the aspects that impact on the lives of people with long-term conditions, and outline how the key players (Government Departments, local authorities, charities and individuals) can act in future in order to improve outcomes for those with long-term conditions. The strategy will be published later in 2012.

We will be working with the third sector, patient and carer groups, the national health service, social services and others to ensure that the strategy takes account of their views, and is a meaningful, relevant document. Third sector neurological organisations will be invited to engagement events surrounding the strategy, and officials working on the strategy will meet with the neurological leadership group, and the neurological alliance.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Advertising

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS Trusts were found to have breached his Department's advertising guidelines in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009, *(d)* 2010 and *(e)* 2011; and how many breaches involved advertising by personal injury lawyers in each year. [90652]

Mr Simon Burns: Guidance advising that NHS trusts should not advertise the services of personal injury lawyers was last issued by the Department in 2007 in 'Health Building Note 00-08: Estatecode'. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

This guidance has advisory status for NHS trusts. Department of Health guidance does not apply to NHS foundation trusts.

The Department does not monitor compliance with advertising guidance and does not hold information on how many breaches have occurred in respect of advertising by personal injury lawyers.

NHS: Parking

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statistics each NHS organisation reported to his Department in the Estates Return Information Collection on *(a)* the number of car parking spaces provided for (i) staff, (ii) patients and (iii) visitors, *(b)* the average fee charged per hour for (A) patient, (B) visitor and (C) staff parking and *(c)* the number of parking spaces for disabled people provided in each year from 1997-98 to 2010-11. [91046]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested.

Since 2001-02, the Department has collected annual data from national health service trusts on car parking provision and any associated charges, through the Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC). The Department does not hold data on this subject before that period.

The data which are available for each year from 2001-02 to the latest available data covering the 2010-11 period have been placed in the Library with an indication of compulsory and non-compulsory data items for NHS organisations including NHS foundation trusts.

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and had not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Pancreatic Cancer

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the causes of regional variations in pancreatic cancer survival rates; [90537]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that survival rates for pancreatic cancer in the worst performing cancer networks are raised to equal those in the highest performing. [90538]

Paul Burstow: We know that late presentation and patients having a more advanced stage of disease at diagnosis are two of the main reasons for variation in cancer survival outcomes. This is why we have prioritised achieving earlier diagnosis in "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January 2011. The strategy, backed by more than £750 million over the spending review period, sets out an ambition to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through earlier diagnosis of cancer and improved access to screening and treatment.

While the Department has not assessed the causes of regional variations in pancreatic cancer survival rates, to support the national health service in tackling regional variations in cancer survival rates, we are providing data to providers and commissioners that allow them to benchmark their services and outcomes against one another and to identify where improvements need to be made. Surgical resection is currently the best curative intervention for pancreatic cancer and through the National Cancer Intelligence Network, we have already made available data collections on survival rates and surgical resection rates across a range of cancers, including pancreatic.

In August 2011, the Department and the National Cancer Action Team published the "Radiotherapy Dataset First Annual Report" to help tackle unwarranted variation in radiotherapy services and from April 2012, we are mandating the collection of chemotherapy data to achieve the same.

In "Improving Outcomes a Strategy for Cancer: First Annual Report", published on 13 December 2011, we have said that continuing to provide the NHS with benchmarked data on variations in services and outcomes as a lever for improvements is a priority for 2012. A copy of this report has been placed in the Library.

Paroxetine

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has assessed paroxetine as being teratogenic. [90540]

Mr Simon Burns: Paroxetine belongs to a class of antidepressant medicines known as the Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs). At the initial time of licensing, in the absence of human pregnancy data, paroxetine was tested in animal studies in line with regulatory requirements and these did not suggest that paroxetine was teratogenic.

In the post-marketing period, there have been several epidemiological studies designed to evaluate any possible potential adverse effects in human neonates exposed to paroxetine during pregnancy. The results of the early studies were conflicting and numbers of exposed pregnancies small.

More recent studies have suggested that there is the potential for an association between exposure to paroxetine in early pregnancy (the first trimester) and a small increase in the risk of birth defects, in particular heart-related defects. Other studies have shown that exposure to SSRIs, including paroxetine, in the later stages of pregnancy is associated with a small increased risk of a condition affecting the neonatal lung and circulation called Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension of the newborn (PPHN).

The product information for-prescribers (the Summary of Product Characteristics) and the patient information leaflet for paroxetine and all SSRIs have been updated to include warnings about the small increased risks of birth defects and PPHN. Information on these risks have also been communicated on the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency website and through its drug safety bulletin, Drug Safety Update.

Current advice is that paroxetine should only be used in pregnancy when strictly indicated and only if the expected benefit to the mother is thought to be greater than any potential risk to the foetus.

Schizophrenia

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people in England diagnosed with schizophrenia in each *(a)* primary care trust area, *(b)* strategic health authority area and *(c)* parliamentary constituency; [90725]

(2) how many people received active treatment for schizophrenia *(a)* in each primary care trust area and *(b)* nationally in each year since 2002; [90726]

(3) how many people with a diagnosis of *(a)* psychosis and *(b)* schizophrenia committed suicide in England in each of the last five years. [90727]

Paul Burstow: The term psychosis does not refer to a diagnosis so we do not have figures for such. We cannot provide the number of people in England diagnosed with schizophrenia; however, tables showing admissions to hospital, based on finished admission episodes, where there was a primary diagnosis of schizophrenia, have been placed in the Library. We do not collect information by parliamentary constituency but by primary care trust and strategic health authority.

The following table gives information on the number of people with a primary diagnosis of schizophrenia in contact with mental health services in the 12 months prior to suicide between 2004 and 2008 in England:

Patient suicides with schizophrenia (England, 2004-08)

	Number
2004	259
2005	243
2006	205
2007	194
2008	175

Source:
National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness.

Chapter 5 (Psychosis) of the document 'Adult Psychiatric Morbidity, in England 2007' gives more background statistical information about schizophrenia and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with schizophrenia in *(a)* each primary care trust and *(b)* England in each year since 2002. [90912]

Paul Burstow: We cannot provide the number of people in England diagnosed with schizophrenia. However, a table showing admissions to hospital, based on finished admission episodes, where there was a primary diagnosis of schizophrenia broken down by primary care trust per year since 2002 and a total figure for England, has been placed in the Library.

Adult Social Care: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of adult social care in *(a)* Dartford constituency and *(b)* Kent in (i) 2020, (ii) 2040 and (iii) 2060. [90535]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not hold such figures centrally. In its Fiscal Sustainability Report, the Office for Budget Responsibility has produced national level estimates for the cost of long-term care as a percentage of gross domestic product to 2060-61. For 2020-21, this figure is 1.3%. For 2040-41 it is 1.8%, and for 2060-61, the estimate is 2.0%. Local authorities may also produce their own estimates on the cost of future need.

Suicide

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital-based staff have completed Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training in each primary care trust in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [90991]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not keep this information centrally. However, the Government's "Consultation on preventing suicide in England: a cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives" published in July 2011 identifies, among its prompts for local action, the importance of suicide prevention and awareness skills training to ensure front-line staff working with high-risk groups receive training in the recognition, assessment and management of risk and fully understand their roles and responsibilities. Following consideration of responses to the consultation document the final outcomes strategy will be published later this year.

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale, local clinicians and patients to discuss *(a)* the lessons learned from the investigation of the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust into emergency care and *(b)* ensuring that patients treated by the trust are safe. [91377]

Mr Simon Burns: I am happy to meet the hon. Member and other hon. Members, whose constituencies are served by the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, to hear their views on the recently announced investigation by the Care Quality Commission into emergency care at the trust.

The Care Quality Commission will seek the views of local stakeholders, including clinicians, patients and Members of Parliament, as part of the investigation.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if she will make a statement. [91102]

Damian Green: The Home Department has not spent any money on Christmas trees and other Christmas decorations in 2011.

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which EU regulations her Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if she will make a statement. [90713]

Damian Green: There is one EU regulation that is awaiting full implementation.

Council Regulation (EC) No. 380/2008 of 18 April 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No. 1030/2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals.

This measure was adopted on 18 April 2008 and will come into force on 20 May 2012.

Immigration: Appeals

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the letter from the Minister for Immigration of 13 June 2011 on the number of appeals allowed by the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum) on the basis of Article 3 and Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in the fourth quarter of 2010, what the equivalent figures are for the *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third quarter of 2011 for appeals relating to (i) criminal casework (foreign national prisoners), (ii) international group entry clearance, (iii) special cases, (iv) asylum appeals, (v) temporary migration, (vi) permanent migration—settlement and (vii) permanent migration—decisions under the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006. [89528]

Damian Green *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* The United Kingdom Border Agency's Case Information Database does not record the specific reasons why an appeal is allowed and the new information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual files, computer records and appeal determinations.

Civil Disorder

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of the monetary value of claims brought under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 have been paid since August 2011; [90568]

(2) how many small business owners who claimed for property damage under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 have received compensation since August 2011; [90570]

(3) how many individuals claiming for home damage under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 have received compensation since August 2011. [90571]

Mrs May *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* Payments to individuals and businesses are the responsibility of police authorities. The Home Office will reimburse all payments made by police authorities under the Riot (Damages) Act.

Security: London 2012 Olympics

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the security systems and resources of the Metropolitan Police, Government and Olympic Agencies, Transport for London and relevant local authorities will be integrated during the London 2012 Olympics; and which agencies and companies are responsible for any such work; [90416]

(2) what steps are being taken to ensure that all security resources available for the London 2012 Olympic venues are integrated; and what account has been taken of previous major incidents in this work; [90417]

(3) how existing security resources outside the London 2012 Olympic venues and at the perimeter fencing will be brought into use; and if she will make a statement. [90418]

Mrs May: The Government are committed to delivering a safe and secure London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games for all, and are confident the right plans are in place to deliver this. There will be a number of major exercises leading up to the Games. Delivery of venue security, including perimeter security, is the responsibility of the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG).

JUSTICE

Bronzefield Prison: Visits

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of security checks on family visitors to Bronzefield prison was in the last year for which figures are available. [90890]

Mr Blunt: HM Prison Bronzefield is a women's establishment for adults and young offenders aged 18-20. It is run under contract to the Ministry of Justice by Sodexo Justice Services. Because payment under the contract is on the basis of occupancy, the cost of security checks on family visitors is not identified separately.

Chief Coroner

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he proposes that the charter for the coroner service will include reference to the chief coroner and his *(a)* functions and *(b)* powers; [87858]

(2) whether he plans to reconsult on his proposed charter for the coroner service following his decision not to abolish the office of chief coroner. [87859]

Mr Djanogly: The charter, which we plan to issue in early 2012, is for current coroner services under the Coroners Act 1988 and 1984 Coroners Rules (as amended) and will not refer to the chief coroner as the functions and powers of that office have yet to be implemented.

We intend to consult on a revised charter when we implement the coroner provisions of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. The revised version will include reference to the functions and powers of the chief coroner as appropriate.

Civil Disorder

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases relating to the public disorder in summer 2011 have involved the use of restorative justice processes. [91142]

Mr Blunt: My Department has published a number of statistical bulletins covering cases relating to the public disorder of 6 to 9 August 2011. These publications provide information on defendants brought before the courts, including initial outcomes, sentencing information, analysis of criminal histories, prison population and linked socio-economic data.

The data reported to my Department by courts, which were subsequently used to compile these bulletins, do not include any information on whether these cases involved any element of restorative justice.

I have arranged for copies of these bulletins and associated data tables to be placed in the House Library.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any offenders convicted of involvement in the public disorder in August 2011 whose cases were heard in the Inner London Crown court were issued with a compensation order. [90787]

Mr Blunt: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 17 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 663W. The report referred to was published on 24 October 2011. I have placed a copy in the House Library.

Civil Proceedings: Finance

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to Lord Jackson's recommendations in his review of civil litigation funding, what steps he has taken to determine the means by which a 10% uplift in general damages could be implemented; and if he will make a statement. [91312]

Mr Djanogly: As the Government indicated in their response to the consultation "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations", there will be an increase of 10% in non-pecuniary general damages such as pain, suffering and loss of amenity in tort cases for all claimants. The senior judiciary have agreed to look at how this is to be taken forward.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made in determining the qualifications that will be used in the qualified one way costs shifting regime for civil litigation; and if he will make a statement. [91313]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are seeking to reform the way in which conditional fee agreements operate in Part 2 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. As part of these reforms, the Government are introducing qualified one way costs shifting (QOCS) in personal injury cases. The Government are developing the details of QOCS with stakeholders, including how the rules should be drafted and what qualifications should be applied.

Community Orders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost is of *(a)* providing supervision for and *(b)* supporting an offender with a community sentence; and what the average cost is of processing such an offender through the criminal justice system. [90788]

Mr Blunt: As part of the Government's commitment to provide greater transparency, and to enable the public to hold services to account and assess whether they are receiving value for money from the services we provide, the National Offender Management Service will publish, in autumn 2012, three probation level input indicators one of which will be the cost per community order. This will be the average, fully-apportioned cost to probation of delivering a Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order sentence to the service definition as detailed in the NOMS service specification. This will include both managing the sentence and delivering court-ordered requirements. The costs of the latter will be derived from the average number and type of requirements attached to a sentence for an offender on each tier.

No distinction is made when collecting costs between providing supervision, supporting an offender and processing an offender.

Contact Orders

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many contact orders issued by the family division were contested by a parent in each of the last three years; [90729]

(2) how many contact orders were issued by the family division in divorce and separation cases in each of the last three years; [90730]

(3) how many residence orders were altered by the family division from one parent having residence to the other parent on application in each of the last three years; [90731]

(4) how many no contact orders were altered by the family division where applications were made by one parent and the other parent had custody in each of the last three years. [90732]

Mr Djanogly: Information on the number of children involved in contact orders issued in the county courts and High Court from 2008 to 2010 is provided in the following table. The information is arranged according to whether the orders were contested. Please note that the person contesting the order may not necessarily be a 'parent'. In addition, this information is not available for contact orders issued in the Family Proceedings Courts prior to 2011.

Number of children involved in contact orders made in private law cases in the county courts and High Court of England and Wales, from 2008 to 2010, by whether or not they were contested

	Contested			
	Yes	*No*	*Unknown*	*Total*
2008	35,980	28,530	*	64,510
2009	40,790	29,100	10	69,900
2010	46,980	31,620	60	78,660

Notes:

1. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each order.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Figures under five are marked with an asterisk '*'. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Please note that contact orders made in private law cases in family proceedings courts (FPCs) have been excluded as, during this period, not all FPCs were using FamilyMan. Those that were not using FamilyMan provided summary returns which held information on contested contact cases but were not complete during this whole time period.
4. Please note that where an order is contested the person contesting the order may not necessarily be a 'parent'. It may be, for example, a grandparent who has been given parental responsibility for the child.

Source:

HMCTS FamilyMan system

Information about the number of contact orders made in divorce and separation cases, about residence orders altered from one parent having residence to the other parent, or about contact orders altered where applications were made by one parent and the other parent had custody, is not held centrally, and could be obtained through the inspection of individual files only at disproportionate cost.

Crimes Outside National Territories

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether a time limit exists for prosecutions brought in respect of offences committed in other countries; [90675]

(2) whether steps are being taken to extend the time limit for prosecutions brought in respect of crimes committed in other countries. [90676]

Mr Blunt: Only a small number of offences that are committed overseas are capable of being tried in England and Wales, and none of them attracts a time limit on prosecution.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Tooting of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 5-8W, on departmental public expenditure and with reference to page 22 of his Department's annual report and accounts 2010-11, what the budget was of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in 2010-11. [87538]

Mr Djanogly: The baseline budget for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in 2010-11 was £209 million. The Ministry of Justice provided £72 million additional funding during 2010-11 which allowed the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) to settle further 'tariff' cases and increased their expenditure to £281 million.

This overall expenditure figure of £281 million covered compensation payments only and included £25 million spent on Scottish cases for which the authority receives separate funding from the Scottish Parliament as part of its baseline budget.

Debt Collection

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints about bailiffs his Department has received in each month since May 2010. [87456]

Mr Djanogly: HM Courts and Tribunals Service does not hold a central record of the number of complaints received about county court bailiffs and civilian enforcement officers. Complaints are made directly to individual county courts and magistrates courts.

A record of the number of complaints received about High Court enforcement officers is held by the Senior Master on behalf of the Lord Chancellor. These records show that since May 2010, there have been no complaints received.

Central records are also held on the number of complaints received against certificated bailiffs. The following table shows the number of complaints received since May 2010.

	Number
2010	
May	1
June	2
July	2
August	1
September	0
October	1
November	1
December	0
2011	
January	0
February	1
March	0
April	1
May	2
June	4
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	1
November	0
December (to date)	0

Note:

The figures given above for certificated bailiffs has been extracted from the central Certificated Bailiff Register that is maintained purely for administrative purposes. It is important to note the limitations of manual data collection processes and that while details are updated, the register does not provide an accurate record of the names, dates and the number of complaints made or heard against certificated bailiffs.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88363]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has not used any debt recovery companies since May 2010.

Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average waiting time for a disability living allowance appeal to be heard was *(a)* in London and *(b)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [90765]

(2) how many disability living allowance appeals for claimants in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK have been unresolved for over 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [90766]

Mr Djanogly: The information is as follows.

(1) Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) hears appeals against Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) decisions on entitlement to disability living allowance (DLA).

The following table shows the average time taken from submission of an appeal to the DWP until the date of the first appeal hearing at HMCTS for DLA appeals nationally and in London.

The information covers 1 April 2011 to 31 October 2011, the latest period for which published data are available.

Average waiting times—disability living allowance

	National	*London*
Average time in weeks from submission to DWP to receipt at HMCTS	6.8	7.7
Average time in weeks from receipt at HMCTS to first hearing	25.6	25.9

Notes:

1. For the purposes of these data London has been taken as those HMCTS venues within the M25 area.

2. The data regarding the time from when an appeal is submitted to the DWP until it is received by HMCTS is taken from HMCTS' database and relies on the date of submission recorded by DWP.

(2) It is not possible to provide the number of DLA appeals that are over 12 months old at this time because the data do not form part of the published statistics and so were not extracted the last time the statistics were produced. To ensure the consistency and integrity of data, HMCTS only provides data based upon published statistics. I will therefore arrange for the number of appeals over 12 months old nationally and in London to be supplied to the hon. Member when the next Social Security and Child Support data are published for the quarter to March 2012.

Driving Under Influence

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were convicted of causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink or drugs in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; [90528]

(2) how many people were convicted of causing death by careless driving and who failed to supply a specimen for analysis in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; [90529]

(3) what the average length of custodial sentence given for a conviction for causing death by careless driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs was in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [90530]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, by average length of custodial sentence, in 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving in 2010 is 238. From information held centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database it is not possible to identify how many of these persons failed to supply a specimen for analysis.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts, by sentence imposed, for offences of causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs[1]*, England and Wales, 2010*[2,3]

Offence	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*of which: Average sentence length*[4] *(months)*	*Suspended sentence*
Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs	41	40	45.5	1

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[1] Road Traffic Act 1988, S.3A as added by Road Traffic Act 1991, S.3 and amended by Criminal Justice Act 1993. S.67.

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences. *Source:* Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Employment Tribunals Service : Fees and Charges

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to alter fees and charges for lodging cases with employment tribunals. [90978]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice published a consultation paper 'Charging Fees in Employment Tribunals and the Employment Appeal Tribunal' on 14 December 2011. The consultation puts forward two sets of proposals that protect access to justice for those with low incomes or limited means, but which also ensure that those who use the system, and can afford to do so, make a financial contribution. The consultation will end on 6 March 2012.

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy area which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany and the dates on which those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90700]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The information requested is not held by Her Majesty's Government. EU regulations have direct legal effect and the same date of application in the member states to which they apply and do not require any implementation. For other types of EU legislation the national measures each member state has used to implement a specific instrument and the implementation dates can be found on the EUR-Lex website at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90715]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The following EU legislation has been agreed and is awaiting transposition into law in England and Wales:

Council Decision 2008/431/EC of 5 June 2008 authorising certain member states to ratify, or accede to, in the interest of the European Community, the 1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children and authorising certain member states to make a declaration on the application of the relevant internal rules of Community law.

Directive 2010/64/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings.

Council Decision 2011/432/EU of 9 June 2011 on the approval, on behalf of the European Union, of the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance.

Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA.

Directive 2011/99/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the European protection order.

There is also a body of EU legislation in the area of police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters, adopted prior to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, against which the Government are currently assessing our outstanding transposition obligations. This will inform the decision we must take no later than May 2014 on whether to accept European Court of Justice jurisdiction for these measures.

European Court of Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what response he has made to the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber Judgement in the Hanif and Khan *v.* United Kingdom case; whether he has any subsequent plans to amend legislation; and what his policy is on police officers serving on juries. [89739]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government are currently considering the judgment. However, the European Court of Human Rights was very clear that it was not deciding whether it is, in general, compatible with Article 6 ECHR for a police officer to serve on a jury. We therefore do not envisage bringing forward legislative proposals in this area.

Lord Justice Auld carefully considered this issue in his Review of the Criminal Courts of England and Wales (2001). He concluded that no-one should be automatically ineligible for jury service simply because of their job. He did not consider it likely that people who worked in the criminal justice system would unduly influence fellow jurors or bring to bear any special degree of prejudice. His recommendations were implemented by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, and additional safeguards were introduced following the House of Lords judgment in "R *v.* Abdroikof and others" (2007) UKHL37.

Fixed Penalties

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fixed penalty notices were issued in each of the last five years. [91238]

Mr Blunt: The number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) in England and Wales can be viewed in the table.

Calendar year information for 2011 is planned for publication in May, 2012.

Penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and above, England and Wales, 2006-10[1]

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Penalty Notices for Disorder	201,197	207,544	176,164	170,393	140,769

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

HM Courts and Tribunals Service

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what costs under each heading of expenditure his Department incurred in *(a)* abolishing HM Courts Service and *(b)* establishing HM Courts and Tribunals Service. [87465]

Mr Djanogly: The costs associated with the creation of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) were not recorded separately for abolishing Her Majesty's Courts Service and establishing HMCTS and it is not possible to disaggregate them. The total costs are shown in the following table.

	£ million
Project management staff salaries	1.6
IT costs	0.9
Other office costs	0.2
Total costs	2.7

Significant benefits are being delivered through the creation of HMCTS. The public consultation document set these out in detail. These savings enable HMCTS to deliver a reduced budget and we believe that these will be around £34 million annually from April 2013.

Judicial Appointments Commission for England and Wales

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what categories of expenditure he expects the Judicial Appointments Commission to make savings; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such savings on the Commission's services and functions. [87463]

Mr Djanogly: The Judicial Appointments Commission's business plan demonstrates that they are expecting to deliver savings in both pay and non-pay costs. This will be delivered through a new staffing structure with reduced numbers of people, particularly at more senior levels, along with more efficient operating processes.

I am confident that the Judicial Appointments Commission will demonstrate that it has made savings while handling more applications and making more recommendations than previous years and continue to make progress towards a more diverse judiciary.

Kidnapping: Children

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of child abduction came before the courts where the abductor was a parent of the child concerned in each of the last three years. [90728]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants who were proceeded against for the abduction of a child by parent in each year from 2008 to 2010 (latest currently available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Defendants[1] *proceeded against at all magistrates courts for the abduction of child by parent under the Child Abduction Act 1984*[2]*, England and Wales, 2008-10*

			Defendants
	2008[3]	*2009*	*2010*
Total proceeded against	16	8	12

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal Is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] The offence data are given for 'abduction of a child by parent' under s.1(1) of the Child Abduction Act 1984, Here child is defined as being a child under 16 years of age.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Legal Aid Scheme: Reform

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the response of the Employment Appeal Tribunal to his consultation on the Reform of Legal Aid. [91314]

Mr Djanogly: The response requested has been placed in the House Library.

Legal Services Commission

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to ensure that inadvertent errors in completing Legal Services Commission forms can be corrected without the need for a formal appeals process. [91424]

Mr Djanogly: Decisions made to award new contracts as part of a tender exercise are a matter for the Legal Services Commission (LSC) which has responsibility for administering the legal aid scheme.

The LSC's tendering processes are governed by the Public Contract Regulations 2006 (as amended). Accordingly, the LSC must operate openly, fairly and transparently in exercising its duties. To allow organisations to correct mistakes (inadvertently made or otherwise) or make other changes after the deadline would ordinarily be in clear breach of this. Rights of internal appeal were clearly set out in the tender documentation and limited to where the LSC had made an error in assessing an applicant's tender. Tender applicants must always use care when completing their tender responses and are asked to confirm that the response they submit is true and accurate, as this is the basis of contract awards.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the total amount of time spent in a month by judges on endorsing claims by counsel seeking payment for their work from the Legal Services Commission. [91425]

Mr Djanogly: Judges do not record the amount of time they take each month considering claims by counsel, so it is not possible to provide the information requested.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason a one-page Family Advocacy Scheme Attendance form has to be signed or initialled by a judge in up to six different places before a barrister can claim payment for work undertaken for the Legal Services Commission. [91426]

Mr Djanogly: A judge's signature is required on the Family Advocacy form to authorise the standard fee for work undertaken. If an advocate has claimed additional fees, an additional signature or initial is required by a judge, magistrate, legal adviser or other court official to provide independent confirmation that the additional fees are justified.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time taken by the Legal Services Commission was to process fee payment applications on behalf of barristers undertaking work funded from the public purse in the latest period for which figures are available. [91427]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) makes legal aid payments for criminal work to barristers via the Advocates Graduated Fee Scheme. The latest figures show that the majority of payment applications for criminal work, where no further information was required, were processed and passed for payment within 39 days, against a target processing time of 40 days. The LSC is working to further reduce this processing time.

Payment for family work is made through the Family Graduated Fee Scheme and Family Advocacy Fee Scheme. Family is the only area of civil work which has introduced fee payment applications for barristers. The latest figures show that the average time taken for applications to be processed and passed for payment is 25 days, against a target processing time of 30 days.

Due to the weekly payment run process the LSC uses, it then takes four to nine working days from authorisation to payment actually being received into the barrister's account for all types of work.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 28 November 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman) with regard to Mr Tariq Nadeem and Mrs Salma Tariq. [90266]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: A reply has now been sent.

Offences Against Children

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the highest number was of previous convictions for taking indecent photographs of children held by a person convicted of that offence without being sent to prison in each of the last three years; and how many previous offences each such person had committed in total at the point of sentence. [91116]

Mr Blunt: The table shows the highest number of previous convictions for taking, permitting to be taken, distributing or publishing indecent photographs of children, for individuals convicted of this offence in the years 2008 to 2010 who received a sentence other than immediate custody. It also shows their total number of previous cautions and convictions, and previous immediate custodial sentences. In each case the previous convictions for this offence were all dealt with at a single court hearing.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Highest number of previous convictions for taking, permitting to be taken, distributing or publishing indecent photographs of children, when convicted of this offence in England and Wales in the years 2008 to 2010, and not going to prison

	Number of previous offences		
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Previous convictions for taking, permitting to be taken, distributing or publishing indecent photographs of children	27	22	29
Previous cautions and convictions for any offence at time of Conviction	33	22	30
Previous immediate custodial sentences for any offence at time of conviction	6	—	—

Offenders: Dyslexia

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to measure the proportion of offenders diagnosed as dyslexic. [90673]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Board (YJB), Department of Health (DoH) and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) do not hold collated data about the number of offenders with dyslexia or similar speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Offender Learning and Skills Service providers undertake detailed assessments of those prisoners who engage in education. That assessment will identify learners with dyslexia and other learning difficulties, and the provider is required to provide additional learner support to assist those prisoners in achieving their learning aims.

A health needs assessment is undertaken when individuals enter prison to assist in identifying speech, language and communications needs.

Working jointly with the Department of Health NOMS are looking to introduce a Learning Disability Screening Questionnaire (LDSQ) for use by all prison staff to identify those with a learning difficulty or disability and refer them to specialist support and services. The LDSQ can also be used in the community by probation trusts.

Prisoners' Release

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were recalled to prison in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [90973]

Mr Blunt: Offenders serving a sentence of 12 months and over are released from prison, in most cases automatically at the half way point of their sentence, under licensed supervision to the Probation Service. Offenders released on licence are recalled to custody if their behaviour gives cause for concern.

The following table provides data for 2009, 2010 and the first two quarters of 2011 (latest available).

Year of recall	*Recalled*
2009	14,715
2010	15,424
2011 (January to June)	7,857

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Qualifications

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners have no educational qualifications; [90662]

(2) what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners were excluded from school. [90663]

Mr Blunt: The 'Compendium of reoffending statistics and analysis' published by my Department in November 2010[1] reported that 42% of prisoners had previously been excluded from school. The report also indicates that 53% of prisoners had qualifications and 47% did not.

Data distinguishing between male and female prisoners are not currently available but are expected to be published, subject to quality assurance, in forthcoming Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction publications on the childhood and educational background of prisoners.

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[1] Compendium of reoffending statistics and analysis.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/compendium-of-reoffending-statistics-and-analysis.pdf

Prisoners: Repatriation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with which countries his officials are negotiating treaties for the repatriation of foreign national prisoners; [81360]

(2) with which countries the UK has signed a treaty for the repatriation of foreign national prisoners since May 2010. [81390]

Mr Blunt: The United Kingdom is actively negotiating prisoner transfer agreements with Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Discussions are taking place with other countries about the possibility of entering into negotiations on prisoner transfer arrangements.

No new prisoner transfer agreements have been signed with other Governments since May 2010.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with which non-EU countries the UK has a treaty for the repatriation of foreign national prisoners; and on what date each treaty was signed. [81391]

Mr Blunt: The United Kingdom is party to both bilateral and multilateral prisoner transfer agreements.

The United Kingdom ratified the Council of Europe convention on the transfer of sentenced persons on 1 August 1985. The following list gives those non-EU countries which have also ratified the convention together with their dates of ratification:

Albania, 4 April 2000.
Andorra, 13 July 2000.
Armenia, 11 May 2001.
Australia, 5 September 2002.
Azerbaijan, 25 January 2001.
Bahamas, 12 November 1991.
Bermuda, 10 September 2002.
Bolivia, 2 March 2004.
Bosnia and Herzegovina, 30 April 2004.
Canada, 13 May 1985.
Chile, 30 July 1998.
Costa Rica, 14 April 1998.
Croatia, 25 January 1995.
Ecuador, 12 July 2005.
Georgia, 21 October 1997.
Honduras, 9 March 2009.
Iceland, 6 August 1993.
Israel, 24 September 1997.
Japan, 17 February 2003,
South Korea, 20 July 2005.
Liechtenstein, 14 January 1998.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 28 July 1999.
Mauritius, 18 June 2004.
Mexico, 13 July 2007.
Moldova, 12 May 2004.
Montenegro, 11 April 2004.
Norway, 9 December 1992.
Panama, 5 July 1999.

Russia, 28 August 2007.
San Marino, 25 June 2004.
Serbia, 11 April 2002.
Switzerland, 15 January 1998.
Tonga, 3 July 2000.
Trinidad and Tobago, 22 March 1994.
Turkey, 3 September 1997.
Ukraine, 28 September 1987.
United States of America, 11 March 1985.
Venezuela, 11 June 2003.

In addition to state signatories to the convention, the convention has been extended to the following territories:

Ascension and Tristan de Cunha, 23 January 1987.
Anguilla, 23 January 1987.
Aruba, 1 June 1996.
Bermuda, 10 September 2002.
Bouvet Island, 1 April 1993.
British Indian Ocean Territory, 23 January 1987.
British Virgin Islands, 2 September 1988
Cayman Islands, 23 January 1987.
Falkland Islands, 23 January 1987.
Faroe Islands, 1 May 1987.
Gibraltar, 23 January 1987.
Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands, 23 January 1987.
Montserrat, 23 January 1987.
Netherlands Antilles, 1 June 1996.
Peter I's Island, 1 April 1993.
Pitcairn, 23 January 1987.
Queen Maud Land, 1 April 1993.
St Helena, 23 January 1987.
Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, 23 January 1987.

The United Kingdom has signed prisoner transfer agreements on a bilateral basis with the following states:

Antigua and Barbuda, 23 June 2003.
Barbados, 3 April 2002.
Brazil, 20 August 1998.
Cuba, 13 June 2002.
Dominica, 2 May 2006[1].
Dominican Republic, 18 February 2003[1].
Egypt, 29 November 1993.
Ghana, 17 July 2008.
Guyana, 5 April 2002[1].
Hong Kong, 17 July 2008.
India, 18 February 2005.
Laos, 7 May 2009.
Lesotho, 6 June 2007.
Libya, 17 November 2008.
Morocco, 21 February 2002.
Nicaragua, 6 September 2005[1].
Pakistan, 24 August 2007.
Peru, 7 March 2003.
Rwanda, 11 February 2010.
St. Lucia, 27 April 2006.
Sri Lanka, 6 February 2004.
Suriname, 29 June 2002[1].
Thailand, 22 January 1990.
Uganda, 12 September 2008[1].
Vietnam, 12 September 2008.

The United Kingdom has been a participant to the Scheme for the Transfer of Convicted Offenders within the Commonwealth since 27 June 1991. The following countries are also participants to the Commonwealth scheme. We do not have the dates of accession for these countries. Where a participant to the Commonwealth scheme is also a signatory to the convention on the transfer of sentenced persons transfer will normally take place under the convention.

Australia.
Bahamas.
Canada.
Cook Islands.
Grenada.
Malawi.
Nigeria.
Samoa.
Sri Lanka.
Trinidad and Tobago.

[1] Prisoner transfer agreements have been signed but await ratification.

Prisons: Third Sector

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding was allocated to *(a)* prisoner support and *(b)* offender support third sector organisations in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each provider receiving funds from the public purse. [90792]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service does not record separately funding allocated to prisoner or offender support third sector organisations. To identify such costs would involve surveying each third sector contracts for the last five years which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Social Entitlement Chamber

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost is of a hearing at the Social Entitlement Chamber of the First Tier Tribunals. [90721]

Mr Djanogly: The Social Entitlement Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal contains three jurisdictions which each have differing types of work load, panel composition and lengths of tribunal hearing. Therefore, HMCTS does not currently utilise or calculate financial information for planning or reporting at Chamber level and an overall average cost of a hearing of the Social Entitlement Chamber is not available. However, the average cost in 2010-11 of an appeal in each of the jurisdictions within the Social Entitlement Chamber is shown in the following table.

	£
Social Security and Child Support	239
Asylum Support	389
Criminal Injuries Compensation	1,077

The average cost of a criminal injuries compensation (CIC) appeal is significantly higher than in the other jurisdictions because the panel in this jurisdiction always consists of three members whereas in other jurisdictions, the number of members can vary between one and three depending on the type of appeal being heard. The hearings in CIC can also last longer than in other jurisdictions, partly due to there being witnesses in most cases.

These costs are averages and any individual case could therefore cost significantly more or less than the figures quoted.

Victim Support

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department allocated to organisations providing support to victims of crime in each of the last five years. [90793]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the funding provided by the Ministry of Justice to organisations providing support to victims of crime in the past five years:

	Funding amount (£)
2007-08	[1]38,978,496
2008-09	[1]40,968,289
2009-10	[1]42,645,763
2010-11	[1]48,527,855
2011-12	[2]48,216,614

[1] Includes contributions from other Government Departments.

[2] In 2011-12 the charity Victim Support will receive, in addition to its grant funding, a sum yet to be determined raised under the Prisoners' Earnings Act. Over the 12 month period from 26 September 2011 to 30 September 2012 Victim Support will receive up to £1 million from this source.

Young Offender Institutions: Injuries

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1068-72W, how many times a restrictive physical intervention was used; how many injuries arose from the use of restrictive physical interventions; how many such injuries were recorded as serious injuries in each Secure Training Centre in each year since 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [90904]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of restrictive physical interventions (RPIs) and injuries recorded following incidents of RPIs, and how many of these injuries were recorded as serious for each Secure Training Centre in each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10. This information has been provided by the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

These data come from monthly returns from secure establishments to the YJB. Due to the way these data are collected it is not possible to tell if the same young people are involved in multiple incidents throughout the year. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Data for 2010-11 will be published on 26 January 2012 in the 2010-11 *Youth Justice Statistics publication*, which will be available on the Ministry of Justice website.

Number of restrictive physical interventions (RPIs), injuries recorded following incidents of RPIs, and how many of these were recorded as serious, 2007-08 to 2009-10

Under 18 Secure Training Centres (STCs)	*Number of RPIs*	*RPI injuries*	*RPI injuries recorded as serious injuries*
2007-08			
Hassockfield	519	100	0
Medway	869	331	0
Oakhill	1012	27	0
Rainsbrook	373	96	0
2008-09			
Hassockfield	543	134	0
Medway	447	151	0
Oakhill	459	18	0
Rainsbrook	374	84	0
2009-10			
Hassockfield	595	195	0
Medway	506	137	0
Oakhill	227	2	0
Rainsbrook	341	69	0

Notes:

1. This data comes from monthly returns from the secure estate to the YJB. Due to the way these data are collected it is not possible to tell if the same young people are involved in multiple incidents throughout the year.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Youth Custody: Enfield

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juvenile offenders from the London borough of Enfield have been held in a *(a)* secure children's home, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* young offender institution in each month since May 2005. [85261]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of young people (aged 10 to 17) either sentenced or remanded in custody attached to the Enfield youth offending team.

These data are from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and refer to secure training centres (STCs), secure children's homes (SCHs), and young offender institutions (YOIs).

The figures from April 2010 onwards are provisional.

The final figures for April 2010 to March 2011 will be finalised in the 2010-11 Annual Youth Justice Statistics publication on 26 January 2012.

Data from April 2011 onwards will be finalised when the 2011-12 Annual Youth Justice Statistics are published in 2013.

The data come from the Youth Justice Board's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS). These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Young people in custody attached to Enfield Youth Offending Team by establishment type

	Secure children's homes	*Secure training centres*	*Young offender institutions*
May 2005	0	1	23
June 2005	0	1	16
July 2005	0	1	15
August 2005	1	3	15
September 2005	1	5	13
October 2005	0	1	18
November 2005	0	1	20
December 2005	0	2	21
January 2006	0	2	20
February 2006	0	2	23
March 2006	0	2	23
April 2006	2	2	21
May 2006	1	1	26
June 2006	1	0	22
July 2006	1	0	27
August 2006	1	2	28
September 2006	0	3	28
October 2006	0	1	25
November 2006	0	3	25
December 2006	1	2	26
January 2007	0	3	28
February 2007	0	3	29
March 2007	0	3	24
April 2007	0	2	27
May 2007	0	2	26
June 2007	0	2	25
July 2007	0	2	20
August 2007	1	2	16
September 2007	1	3	22
October 2007	0	3	22
November 2007	0	2	22
December 2007	0	1	23
January 2008	0	2	16
February 2008	0	3	17
March 2008	0	2	17
April 2008	0	0	20
May 2008	0	0	20
June 2008	0	2	20
July 2008	0	1	22
August 2008	0	2	19
September 2008	0	2	16
October 208	0	1	17
November 2008	0	1	18
December 2008	0	1	14
January 2009	0	0	16
February 2009	1	0	19
March 2009	1	0	16
April 2009	1	1	18
May 2009	1	3	17
June 2009	0	3	15
July 2009	0	1	15
August 2009	0	0	16
September 2009	0	2	16
October 2009	0	1	16
November 2009	0	2	11
December 2009	0	0	9
January 2010	0	0	7
February 2010	0	1	12
March 2010	0	0	9
April 2010	0	2	11
May 2010	1	2	11
June 2010	0	2	17
July 2010	0	3	15
August 2010	0	2	15
September 2010	0	3	13
October 2010	0	4	13
November 2010	0	2	14
December 2010	0	3	10
January 2011	0	3	11
February 2011	0	1	18
March 2011	0	2	20
April 2011	1	2	17
May 2011	0	1	14
June 2011	0	1	20
July 2011	0	4	16
August 2011	0	3	17
September 2011	1	4	22

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much her Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if she will make a statement. [91112]

Lynne Featherstone: From 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office became part of the Home Office. Information relating to the Government Equalities Office will be included in the reply of the Minister for Immigration, the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many and what proportion of full-time equivalent staff in the Government Equalities Office are engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if she will make a statement. [91111]

Lynne Featherstone: From 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office became part of the Home Office. Information relating to the Government Equalities Office will be included in the reply of the Minister for Immigration, the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

WORK AND PENSIONS

StartHere

20. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department is working with the Department of Health on the deployment of applications produced by StartHere. [90858]

Steve Webb: The Department is not currently working with StartHere.

However, the Department is committed to increasing the availability of its services online, and continues to work with partners including the BBC and Digital Unite to enable people to access digital services.

Female Unemployment

21. **Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to reduce the rate of female unemployment; and if he will make a statement. [90860]

22. **Mr Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to reduce the rate of female unemployment; and if he will make a statement. [90861]

Chris Grayling: The Government's aim is to achieve lasting growth in employment by tackling the deficit, improving competitiveness and encouraging the growth of new businesses.

To ensure those without work—including women—are well placed to take up the new jobs that are created, through the Work programme and universal credit we are reforming the welfare system to offer people the support they need to achieve their full potential and ensure they keep more of what they earn once back in work.

Work Capability Assessments

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking in conjunction with disability groups to update the handbook and guidance used by Atos in the administration of work capability assessments. [90856]

Chris Grayling: Following a recommendation from Professor Harrington in his second independent review of the work capability assessment the Department and Atos are putting in place a formal procedure for disability groups and their clinical advisers to quality assure the evidence based protocols, condition specific training and the WCA handbook used by Atos.

Carer's Allowance

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to his Department of continuing to pay carer's allowance to those carers in receipt of a state pension. [90951]

Steve Webb *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* The overlapping benefits rule means that a person cannot be paid carer's allowance while receiving the same amount or more from an income maintenance benefit such as state pension.

The estimated cost of removing this rule, after adjusting for the offset in pension credit would be around £800 million[1]. This estimate does not include additional costs from carers over pension age who would choose to apply for carer's allowance if the overlapping benefits rule did not apply. These additional costs are likely to be significant but cannot be quantified.

[1] *Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, May 2011.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79083]

Chris Grayling: The only grant payments made to a charitable organisation by the Department for Work and Pensions are those made to Motability. It is largely self-financed and the only funding the Department for Work and Pensions gives the scheme relates to the Specialised Vehicles Fund, which Motability administers on our behalf. More information about Motability can be found at:

www.motability.co.uk

Information on the amount of funding allocated to Motability in respect of the Specialised Vehicles Fund and its administration in each of the last five years is contained in the following table.

£000

	Specialised vehicle fund	*Administration costs*
2007-08	12,700	2,960
2008-09	17,036	2,960
2009-10	17,036	2,208
2010-11	17,036	1,208
2011-12	[1]17,036	1,000

[1] The budget for the full year 2011-12 is £17,036,000 and we expect Motability to fully utilise this, although only £13,600,000 of grants have been made to date.

Child Maintenance

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many child support cases the Child Support Agency held for Carlisle in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [89165]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many child support cases the Child Support Agency held for Carlisle in (a) 2008-09, (b) 2009-10 and (c) 2010-11. [89165]

The table shows the number of cases where a parent with care or non-resident parent resides in Carlisle parliamentary constituency.

As at March each year:	*Caseload by parent with care in Carlisle constituency*	*Caseload by non-resident parent Carlisle constituency*
2009	2,160	2,040
2010	2,000	1,870
2011	1,990	1,910

Notes:
1. Both the parent with care and the non-resident parent in the same case may reside in Carlisle constituency therefore the figures in the two columns should be viewed separately.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Areas are provided by matching the residential postcode of the parent with care or non-resident parent to the Office for National Statistics Postcode Directory.
4. Caseload refers to the live and assessed caseload which includes open cases with an ongoing child maintenance liability, cases which have been assessed as nil liability and cases where arrears of maintenance have been requested.
5. Caseload is reported at a point in time, these figures show the caseload as at the end of March each year.

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91084]

Chris Grayling: Since 1998, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) occupies the majority of its accommodation under a private finance initiative (PFI) known as the PRIME contract. Under the terms of this PFI, the Department leases back fully serviced accommodation from its private sector partner Telereal Trillium, for which it pays an all-inclusive unitary charge. While this unitary charge does not cover Christmas trees and decorations, Telereal Trillium does provide a decorated tree at some headquarters sites such as Caxton house and Quarry house at their expense as a goodwill gesture. Therefore, the Department did not spend money on Christmas trees or other Christmas decorations in 2011.

Co-operatives

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN International Year of Co-operatives 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88602]

Chris Grayling: Departments will work closely with Cabinet Office, the Mutuals Taskforce and with Co-operatives UK to develop and take full advantage of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

At present neither the Department nor its non-departmental public bodies have any plans to mark the UN Year of the Co-operative 2012.

The Mutuals Taskforce has recently indicated it will play a co-ordinating role for Departments to support the International Year of Co-operatives, with Co-operatives UK leading the Taskforce's work in this area.

Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average backdated claim was which was awarded in disability living allowance appeals in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [90767]

Maria Miller: We are unable to provide a response on the average backdated claim awarded in disability living allowance appeals because the information requested is not routinely reported and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy area which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany and the dates on which those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90703]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not held by Her Majesty's Government. Providing an answer would impose a disproportionate cost.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90718]

Chris Grayling: The EU directives yet to be implemented by the Department for Work and Pensions are as follows:

Directive 2010/41/EU of 7 July 2010 on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self employed capacity. This repeals council directive 86/613/EEC. It came into force on 4 August 2010. We are considering the date for implementation.

Council Directive 2010/32/EU of 10 May 2010 implementing the Framework Agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and health care sector concluded by HOSPEEM and EPSU. This directive came into force on 21 June 2010 and will be implemented by the transposition deadline of May 2013.

Future Jobs Fund

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had on the effects on unemployment of closure of the future jobs fund. [90847]

Chris Grayling: The future jobs fund was a very expensive programme which did not lead to enough young people entering sustained employment.

We believe the support we are offering through the Work programme, an expanded work experience scheme and the youth contract will deliver better sustained outcome for young people.

Pensions

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to protect the interests of people with small pension pots. [90844]

Steve Webb: The problem associated with small pension pots can include higher charges, losing track of a pension or facing barriers to moving a pension and getting a decent annuity.

That is why we published a paper in December that sets out some radical options for some form of automated transfer system to make it easy for people to build up one large pension pot.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on living standards of people *(a)* with disabilities and *(b)* diagnosed with cancer of his proposals in the Welfare Reform Bill. [91320]

Chris Grayling: The Government have published both impact and equality impact assessments on the Welfare Reform Bill, including employment and support allowance and disability living allowance reform.

These can be found on the DWP website at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/legislation-and-key-documents/welfare-reform-bill-2011/

Unemployment: Older People

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department's recent unemployment figures include those people aged over 60 but under 65 who no longer need to make further national insurance contributions to qualify for a state pension. [91410]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether unemployment estimates include those people aged between 60 and 65 who no longer need to make further national insurance contributions to qualify for a state pension (91410).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces estimates of unemployment in accordance with international guidelines specified by the International Labour Organisation. The definition of unemployment is contained in a resolution adopted by the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 1982.

In accordance with this resolution, people in the UK aged 16 or over are recorded as being unemployed if:

they are without a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks or;

are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks.

There is no upper age limit on unemployment and whether or not a person needs to make further national insurance contributions to qualify for a state pension is not a relevant factor in determining whether a person is unemployed or not.

The ONS also produces estimates for the claimant count which measures the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA).

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date he expects to publish programme plans for universal credit. [91306]

Chris Grayling: There is curently no intention to publish universal credit programme plans.

Job Vacancies

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what sources of information his Department bases its calculations of the number of job vacancies that are available to people seeking employment. [91246]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what sources of information are used to produce estimates of job vacancies (91246).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces estimates of vacancies for the whole economy excluding agriculture, forestry and fishing (due to the practical difficulties of producing estimates for this sector). The estimates are sourced from the ONS Vacancy Survey, a survey of employers. ONS surveys around 6,000 organisations per month and they are asked to record the number of vacancies for which they are actively seeking to recruit staff from outside their own organisation. These estimates are only available for the UK as a whole; there is no regional data available from this survey.

The Department for Work & Pensions produces estimates of JobCentre Plus vacancies sourced from JobCentre Plus administrative systems. These estimates measure those vacancies notified by employers to JobCentre Plus, and are available at regional and local area level as well as at UK level.

Welfare State: Reform

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he expects to save from the reform of the welfare system in each of the next three years; and what assessment he has made of the cost of reforming the welfare system in each of the next three years. [91375]

Chris Grayling: The Spending Review 2010 announced fundamental reforms to simplify the welfare system, which were estimated to deliver net welfare savings of £7 billion per year by 2014-15.

The detailed underlying costings for policies announced at Spending Review 2010 are published in the document Spending Review 2010 policy costings:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

and the estimated fiscal impact of these policies is updated in Table 2.2 of the Budget 2011 report:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ukgwacnf.html?url=http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/2011budget_complete.pdf

DWP funding to implement the welfare reforms announced in the June 2010 Budget and the Spending Review 2010 for which DWP has responsibility is included within the overall departmental expenditure limit (DEL). This includes £2 billion over 2011-12 to 2014-15 for the introduction of universal credit. The DWP funding settlement from 2010-11 to 2014-15 is published in Spending Review 2010:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_completereport.pdf

The DWP Business Plan 2011-15 sets out the detailed actions to reform the welfare system. This is an annual publication last updated in May 2011. Indicative figures of planned expenditure for 2011-12 were published alongside the Business Plan:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/indicative-data-2011-12.xls

Work Programme

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many off-benefit checks his Department has performed in relation to the Work programme since its inception. [91239]

Chris Grayling: The Department will begin conducting off-benefit checks in relation to the Work programme in April 2012.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what means he will assess the extent to which Work Programme prime providers' funding arrangements meet the Merlin Standard for equitable transfer of financial and other risks for small, specialist and third sector providers. [91311]

Chris Grayling: The Department has appointed an independent organisation to undertake the assessment of prime contractors against the Merlin Standard. Supporting products and guidance will be available in due course on the Merlin web portal:

http://www.merlinstandard.co.uk

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 217W, on the Work programme, whether claimant starts for the period June to November 2011 were in line with estimated volumes in each Work programme contract package area. [91369]

Chris Grayling: The Department intends to publish official statistics on referrals and attachments to the Work programme from spring 2012. This is in line with guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure published statistics meet the required high quality standards.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

ACAS

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with ACAS on changes to early conciliation and the resources to support such changes. [91324]

Mr Davey: Officials in the Department are having regular discussions with ACAS colleagues to develop the detail of the early conciliation process and to establish what additional resourcing requirements are needed to support it.

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the additional resources required by ACAS to implement the Government's early conciliation proposals; and what additional resources his Department will provide to ACAS in each of the next three years. [91325]

Mr Davey: Officials in the Department are working closely with ACAS colleagues to develop the detail of the early conciliation process. Once this has been determined, we will be able to determine the additional resourcing requirements needed to ensure that ACAS can deliver the new service. Any additional funding will be provided through the normal grant in aid process. Early conciliation will require primary legislation and implementation is subject to the parliamentary process.

ACAS: Finance

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department provided to ACAS in each year between 2008 and 2011; and how much his Department plans to provide in the next three years. [91323]

Mr Davey: The information is as follows:

In 2011-12 ACAS' total budget allocation is £47,839,000.00.

In 2010-11 ACAS' total budget allocation was £51,874,000.00.

In 2009-10 ACAS' total budget allocation was £55,787,000.00.

In 2008-09 ACAS' total budget allocation was £51,212,600.00.

ACAS's budget allocations for the next three years have yet to be confirmed.

Bankruptcy

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average debt of those entering bankruptcy in each year since 2001; and what the average debt was, excluding mortgages and secured loans, of those who entered bankruptcy in each year since 2011. [89033]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service ("The Service") is able to provide details of the average debt of those entering bankruptcy in each year since 2001. The Service does not collate a total figure for the average debt excluding mortgages and secured loans.

The following figures include those entering bankruptcy by both debtor and creditor petitions.

The mean average can be skewed by a small number of large values in the total amount, so both the mean average and median average figures are provided for comparison purposes.

£

	Median average amount of debt	*Average amount of debt*
April 2001 to March 2002	36,900	54,512
April 2002 to March 2003	35,200	97,909
April 2003 to March 2004	32,400	46,498
April 2004 to March 2005	33,200	121,636
April 2005 to March 2006	33,900	59,478
April 2006 to March 2007	28,600	73,661
April 2007 to March 2008	33,900	104,883
April 2008 to March 2009	37,000	153,084
April 2009 to March 2010	42,300	130,248
April 2010 to March 2011	39,500	191,626
April 2011 to December 2011	50,000	235,827

Business: Investment

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of average levels of cash on companies' balance sheets; and what discussions he has had with companies on the use of such cash levels to invest in *(a)* enhancing UK competitiveness, *(b)* improving UK economic productivity and *(c)* increasing access to alternative sources of funding for UK businesses. [90760]

Mr Davey: Total cash and short-term deposits held by UK private, non-financial corporations amounted to £681 billion in 2010.[1]

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) regularly meets businesses of all sizes to discuss a wide range of issues. Cash is retained for a variety of reasons and investment decisions are commercial choices for businesses themselves. Government, however, has a vital role in creating the right incentives and framework for business investment by, for example, reducing the rate of corporation tax from 26% to 23% by 2014, reforming the planning regime, and improving R&D tax credits.

Cash surpluses are not evenly distributed, and many businesses who want to invest have to rely on external sources of finance. We want to boost the finance options for business to include a wider range of non-bank sources. That is why my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has announced the establishment of an industry-led taskforce headed by Tim Breedon. The taskforce is working with businesses, investors and others to establish what steps need to be taken to remove structural and behavioural barriers to raising non-bank finance. Part of the work will include a look at ways to help businesses provide financing support to their supply chains.

[1] *Source:* ONS Blue Book 2011.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90761]

Mr Davey: At present, this Department has six EU regulations that have not as yet been fully implemented. The following table shows a list of these regulations which includes the date of which these became EU law.

List of EU directives that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have yet to implement in the UK[1]

Directive	*Title*	*Date came into force*
2008/06	Directive 2008/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 amending directive 97/67/EC with regard to the full accomplishment of the internal market of Community postal services	1 October 2011
2008/122	Directive 2008/122/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 January 2009 on the protection of consumers in respect of certain aspects of timeshare, long-term holiday product, resale and exchange contracts	23 February 2011
2009/38	Directive 2009/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees (Recast)	1 October 2011
2009/109	Directive 2009/109/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 amending Council directives 77/91/EEC, 78/855/EEC and 82/891/EEC, and directive 2005/56/EC as regards reporting and documentation requirements in the case of mergers and divisions	1 August 2011
2008/104	Directive 2008/104/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on temporary agency work	1 October 2011
2011/37	Commission directive 2011/37/EU of 30 March 2011 amending annex II to directive 2000/53/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on end-of-life vehicles	1 July 2010

[1] The UK means England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Gibraltar.

Business: Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the opportunity to develop and increase Business in the Community's Business Connector programme; and if he will make a statement. [91421]

Mr Davey: Business in the Community's Business Connector programme is a good example of a business-led initiative to support community empowerment using the expertise of business. The Office of Civil Society is contributing to the funding of a pilot of the first 20 Business Connectors in which leading businesses including BT, Greggs, Fujitsu and Sainsbury's have seconded senior staff to build business expertise and delivery capacity in local community organisations. Fujitsu has also developed a supporting online resource network.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is pleased to promote the Business Connectors programme as a good example of business working with civil society to the benefit of their communities under Every Business Commits.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to encourage companies to offer opportunities and assistance to help their staff volunteer; and if he will make a statement; [91428]

(2) what steps he is taking to encourage companies to establish a *(a)* volunteering and *(b)* giving scheme; and if he will make a statement. [91429]

Mr Davey: Under Every Business Commits we have challenged businesses to take action in five priority areas: investing in skills and jobs; promoting employee well-being; supporting enterprise; engaging with communities; and reducing carbon emissions. And the Government have committed to remove barriers to business engagement in these areas.

Working with business representatives on the Every Business Commits Forum, we are promoting and sharing examples of good practice, including payroll giving schemes and staff volunteering. A new business-led digital service—Trading for Good—is in development and will offer good practice sharing to small enterprises as well as toolkits offering guidance on how to take up these activities.

Consumers: Credit

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the EU Consumer Credit Sweep (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that UK regulatory and enforcement bodies have sufficient resources to monitor the compliance of consumer credit providers with legislative requirements; [90768]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure providers of consumer credit comply with legislative requirements. [90769]

Mr Davey: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) participated in a sweep of websites that advertise consumer credit as part of an EU-wide investigation to check whether consumers are given the information to which they are entitled under EU consumer law.

The OFT will use the findings from the sweep to target those companies that do not meet their legal obligations. It will inform the European Commission of the actions it has taken by autumn 2012 and the Commission will report on the results from across the EC thereafter.

The OFT will also be launching a comprehensive compliance review of its Irresponsible Lending Guidance shortly. The review will focus on identifying those practices that are the cause of most harm to consumers and the findings will be used to take further enforcement action and drive up standards.

The Government's aim is to ensure a proportionate approach to regulation and enforcement whereby consumers are protected without placing unnecessary burdens on business. The Government are currently considering the future of the consumer credit regime, including future resourcing, and will make an announcement in due course.

Dementia: Research

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the *(a)* Medical Research Council and *(b)* Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council spent on dementia research in 2010-11. [91373]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) spent £15.6 million in 2009/10. Precise figures for MRC expenditure in 2010/11 are not yet available. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council estimate that they spent £3.5 million in 2010/11.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91099]

Mr Davey: The following table shows the number/headcount and proportion of full-time equivalent staff currently employed in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services. These figures are based on staff on payroll and do not include UK Trade and Investment (UKTI).

	Number/headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
Frontline	1,799	1,740.8
Corporate/back office	661	630.9

The figure for corporate/back office services includes staff in legal, human resources (HR), communications, finance, shared services, internal audit, information and communications technology (ICT) services and commercial. Some of these areas also provide corporate support to BIS agencies.

Regulation

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish a list of *(a)* all new regulations introduced and *(b)* all regulations abolished under his Department's one-in one-out policy since May 2010. [91121]

Mr Prisk: The "One-in, One-out: Statement of New Regulation" (published April 2011) and the departmental statements accompanying the "One-in, One-out: Second Statement of New Regulation" (published September 2011) list new measures, including deregulatory measures, introduced under one-in, one-out between January 2011 (the effective date of the policy) and December 2011.

Copies of all of these publications were placed in the Libraries of the House and can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/better-regulation-framework/one-in-one-out/statement

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany; on which dates those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90689]

Mr Davey: The information requested is not held by Her Majesty's Government. Providing an answer would pose a disproportionate cost.

Exports

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with the *(a)* CBI, *(b)* Institute of Directors and *(c)* Federation of Small Businesses on steps to support small and medium-sized businesses to export to international markets. [90180]

Mr Prisk: As a Department, we engage regularly with key business multipliers to include the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Institute of Directors (IoD) and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) on steps to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to export to international markets. Regular meetings take place with these organisations at both ministerial and working level to discuss key issues regarding international trade and how we can boost the number of SMEs who export.

We have developed partnership relationships with all three organisations, and work with them to promote the benefits of trade to their SME audience via their existing channels. For example in the last 12 months we have delivered a series of breakfast round table discussions on export opportunities for SMEs in Russia, China and India and have an additional programme planned with them in the coming six months. Similarly we recently led FSB's export seminars as part of their extensive programme at the Business Start-Up Show.

Most recently, the CBI, IoD and FSB have been involved in the national 'Export for Growth' initiative which was launched by the Prime Minister on 10 November last year. The initiative offers a series of programmes and coordinated help from professional advisers to business, to include banks, accountants, lawyers and trade associations to boost SME awareness of overseas opportunities. All three organisations helped to shape the programme for the national event and have been involved in the 12 regional events which are taking place over the next three months.

Flexible Working

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department and its predecessors have taken to promote flexible working in the last 30 years. [90931]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was formed on 5 June 2009. Our predecessors have promoted flexible working over a number of years, (records do not go back further than March 2000). Since 2000 activities include:

In March 2000, the Government launched the Work-Life Balance Campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of work-life balance policies. The campaign targeted employers, encouraging them to develop policies that would enable employees to effectively balance their work with their life outside of work.

In April 2003, the Government introduced the right to request flexible working for employed parents of young and disabled children via regulations under the Employment Act 2002.

The Work and Families Bill 2006 widened the scope of the existing law on flexible working to enable more people (carers of adults and parents of children under 18) with caring responsibilities to request to work flexibly.

The Flexible Working (Eligibility, Complaints and Remedies) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 widen the scope of the right to request flexible working to carers of certain adults from April 2007

In 2008 all flexible working guidance was converged onto Businesslink.gov.uk and direct.gov.uk as part of Employment Law Guidance Programme. This programme aimed to support businesses in complying with their employment obligations.

In May 2008 the Government published the independent Walsh Review "How to Extend the Right to Request Flexible Working to Parents of Older Children".

The Flexible Working (Eligibility, Complaints and Remedies) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 extended the scope of flexible working law to Parents to children under 17 from April 2009.

In the run up to the April 2009 extension of the right to request to parents of children under 17, the Government:

Contacted over 890,000 small and medium sized enterprises to highlight the change in the law and to publicise the guidance available at businesslink.gov.uk to ensure businesses knew where to find the free help available;

Ran a campaign via Directgov encompassing magazine advertorials, radio slots and television advertising, and highlighting the guidance and advice available on

www.direct.gov.uk

Engaged with key stakeholders to promote the flexible working messages to employees;

Launched a series of activities spread over 12 months encompassing media opportunities, ministerial events and using publication s to reach the various target audiences.

In September 2009 Government stepped up their action to raise awareness of flexible working rights for carers with the publication of a new survey showing that millions were unaware of flexible working rights for parents and carers.

The Department worked with the Family Friendly Working Hours Taskforce to help develop their recommendations, the taskforce was established by the Department of Work and Pensions. The taskforce published the Flexible Working: working for families, working for business report in 2009 setting out recommendations for what more can be done to both encourage and support employers to realise the benefits of flexible working in their organisation.

On 18 February 2010 Government launched a month long "Dads at Work campaign—raising awareness of paternity rights" and raising awareness among dads of their rights at work to help them care for their child.

In response to the Government's coalition commitment to extend the right to flexible working to all employees, we are currently reviewing the flexible working regulations with the aim of introducing an extension of the right to request flexible working to all employees by 2014.

High Street Support Scheme

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 1211W, on the High Street Support scheme, what the underspend was which was diverted to fund the High Street Support scheme relating to the West Midlands. [87793]

Mr Prisk: The underspend from the regional development agencies, including Advantage West Midlands, is subject to the remaining months de-commissioning so a precise figure is not available. However, current forecasts across all of the regional development agencies indicate that it is adequate to fund the £7 million contribution towards the High Street Support scheme.

Higher Education: Finance

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to issue guidance to universities on donations from countries with a poor record on human rights. [89541]

Mr Willetts: It is important that universities diversify their income sources, and philanthropic donations are important in this context. It is a central principle of our successful higher education system that universities are autonomous institutions. It is for university governing bodies to assess the appropriateness of those donations they choose to accept, including the potential impact of those donations on their reputation.

However, the Financial Memorandum between the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the institutions that they fund advises that to fulfil their duty to be accountable to all their stakeholders, higher education institutions (HEIs) should operate in an open and transparent way. This memorandum is available on the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2010/10_19/

Those HEIs that are registered charities are regulated by the Charities Commission who offer advice on donations in their Compliance Toolkit which can be accessed online at:

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Our_regulatory_activity/Compliance_work/default.aspx

Higher Education: Yorkshire and Humber

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 145W, on higher education: admissions, following the 15 January deadline how many UCAS applications were submitted by residents of *(a)* Sheffield Central constituency, *(b)* Sheffield, *(c)* South Yorkshire and *(d)* Yorkshire and the Humber in the 2011-12 admissions cycle; and how many such applications had been submitted at the January deadline in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [90947]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* The information is not available. UCAS will release figures showing the number of applicants who applied by 15 January on 30 January.

Insolvency

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Insolvency Service intends to release information on personal insolvencies in each parliamentary constituency for 2010. [89032]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service does not publish personal insolvency statistics by parliamentary constituency. Regional statistics are published by Government office region, county, unitary authority and county district, and can be downloaded here:

http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/regionalstatisticsmenu.htm

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what role local economic partnerships will play in delivering services previously provided by UK Trade & Investment. [90231]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) will not be delivering any services previously provided by UK Trade & Investment (UKTI). However, LEPs will be key partners for UKTI in supporting foreign direct investment and international trade at the local level.

Overseas Trade

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Strategic Relations Unit has taken to ensure there is a coherent trade policy across all Government Departments. [90232]

Mr Prisk: The Strategic Relations team is focused on ensuring effective relationship management of major investors in the UK, many of whom are also exporters. Building the necessary relationship management structures across Government will result in the improved communication of trade related issues from the relationship managed sectors to the rest of Government. However, any engagement or communication will be within the Government's existing strategy for trade policy.

Any feedback or suggestions for improving the UK's trade policy from the Strategic Relations team will be passed to the Europe and International Trade Directorate in the Department for Business Innovation and Skills who are responsible for developing the overarching strategy for UK trade policy.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Third Special Report from the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee, HC 1545, paragraph 14, if he will publish the stock-take of international market access undertaken jointly by his Department, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK Trade & Investment. [90246]

Mr Prisk: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), officials met on 13 September for a stock take of how market access issues are handled across Government, with the aim of ensuring an integrated Whitehall-wide approach to addressing market access barriers.

The Departments are keen to ensure any overhaul of the current mechanisms does not add a layer of bureaucracy; any changes must result in direct benefits for business or improve Government efficiency. A light touch approach has been agreed to include the identification of areas where Departments need to work together and ensure information is shared appropriately. Accordingly, a stock-take report was not produced.

Good progress has been made in delivering the UKTI strategy and implementing the FCO Charter for Business. HMG recognises the importance of fully utilising the UK's diplomatic network overseas and ministerial visits to assist in delivering value to UK business. Ministerial visits briefings have a strong focus on the UK's top commercial priorities including key market access issues, ensuring Ministers, and our diplomatic network overseas, are lobbying host Governments on the commercial and trade issues of most importance to British business interests.

Further close working across Government, and in consultation with business, is also being taken forward on a number of other fronts. For instance, we have consulted with business on our top market access issues in regards to China, building our joint understanding of the issues with a view to addressing these through a combination of our commercial diplomacy work and in influencing the European Commission to address UK priorities in bilateral trade discussions.

In addition, DEFRA, as part of a joint Government/industry agri-food export action plan to be published later this month, will be working with industry experts and colleagues in BIS, UKTI and FCO to build up the HMG assessment of barriers to trade facing UK agri-food companies in key markets. This will raise cross-Government awareness of the obstacles facing this sector, and help build a co-ordinated lobbying effort.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the UK's global ranking is for *(a)* exports and *(b)* inward investment in the (i) marine, (ii) security, (iii) aerospace and airport, (iv) automotive, (v) business support services, (vi) education and training, (vii) environment, (viii) food and drink, (ix) health care and bioscience and (x) information and communication technologies sector. [90253]

Mr Prisk: Overall, the UK is ranked 10th for goods exports by value, and 3rd for (non-government) service exports by value in 2010, according to the World Trade Organisation. The UK is also ranked 3rd for inward investment stock by value in 2010, according to the UN conference on Trade and Development.

Data on an industry sector level are limited due to the need for international comparability, and export data are more readily available for goods (commodities) and services rather than by industry sectors. Available rankings for the value of goods and services exports (plus some related commodities) and inward investment stock value are shown in the following tables. Some data used here are collated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and therefore do not cover all countries but cover where available, all 34 OECD member countries, plus the Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRICs), South Africa and Indonesia.

(a) Exports

Sector	*Data available*[1]	*UK ranking*	*Year*	*Source*
Marine	3511: Building and repairing of ships (G)	12th out of 30	2004	OECD
	793: Export of ships, boats, floats (C)	11th out of 123	2010	UN
Security	Not available	—	—	—
Aerospace and airport	353: Manufacture of aircraft and spacecraft (G)	4th out of 30	2004	OECD
	792: Export of aircraft and associated equipment (C)	64th out of 121	2010	UN
Automotive	34: Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (G)	9th out of 39	2008	OECD
	78: Export of road vehicles (C)	11th out of 131	2010	UN
Business support services	74: Other business activities (G)	5th out of 39	2008	OECD
	268: Other business services (S)	2nd out of 30	2007	OECD
Education and training	Not available	—	—	—
Environment	Not available	—	—	—
Food and drink	15: Manufacture of food products and beverages (G)	10th out of 39	2008	OECD
	0: Export of food and live animals (C)	16th out of 137	2010	UN
Health care and bioscience	2423: Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemicals and botanical products (G)	5th out of 30	2004	OECD
	331: Manufacture of medical appliances and instruments and appliances for other purposes (G)	4th out of 30	2004	OECD
	54: Export of medicinal, pharmaceutical products (C)	6th out of 128	2010	UN
Information and communication technologies	30: Manufacture of office, accounting and computing machinery (G)	7th out of 39	2008	OECD
	32: Manufacture of radio, TV, communications equipment (G)	10th out of 39	2008	OECD
	245: Communication services (S)	2nd out of 30	2007	OECD
	262: Computer and information services (S)	2nd out of 28	2007	OECD

[1] G=goods exports by industry, S=services exports, C=commodity data

(b) Inward investment

Sector	*Data available*	*UK ranking*	*Year*	*Source*
Marine	6100: Water transport	6th out of 20	2009	OECD

(b) Inward investment

Sector	*Data available*	*UK ranking*	*Year*	*Source*
Security	Not available	—	—	—
Aerospace and airport	6200: Air transport	1st out of 21	2009	OECD
Automotive	3400: Motor vehicles	3rd out of 20	2009	OECD
	5000: Sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles; retail sale of automotive fuel	2nd out of 22	2009	OECD
	6000: Land transport	1st out of 18	2009	OECD
Business support services	7300: Research and development	4th out of 22	2009	OECD
	7400: Other business services	6th out of 23	2009	OECD
Education and training	Not available	—	—	—
Environment	Not available	—	—	—
Food and drink	1605: Food products	10th out of 25	2009	OECD
Health care and bioscience	Not available	—	—	—
Information and communication technologies	3000: Office machinery and computers	2nd out of 20	2009	OECD
	3200: Radio, TV, communication equipment	6th out of 23	2009	OECD
	6400: Post and telecommunications	1st out of 22	2009	OECD
	7200: Computer activities	6th out of 23	2009	OECD

Overseas Trade: India

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of changes in the levels of *(a)* exports and *(b)* inward investment arising from UK Trade & Investment's work in Mumbai, India, in each year between 1997 and 2011. [90250]

Mr Prisk: It is not possible to quantify the impact specifically of UK Trade & Investment's Mumbai office on overall bilateral trade and investment levels for the period in question. Between 1997 and 2010 (the last year for which full statistics are available), the value of trade in goods and services rose from £4.19 billion to £14.23 billion. No records for inward investment from India were published in 1997 and the last year for which complete figures are available is 2009. During this (1998-2009) period inward investment flows increased from £94 million to £1.84 billion.

Science: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent from its funding for science and research programmes in each region in each year for which figures are available. [88097]

Mr Willetts: The October 2011 National Statistics Public Expenditure Outturn provided details of regional expenditure.

According to the Chapter 3 CRA database, which analyses expenditure by Department, region and function, the expenditure on science and technology by BIS was as follows:

					£ million
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
England					
East	243.8	257.1	294.6	335.8	320.9
East Midlands	120.7	151.2	141.9	173.2	157.4
London	321.4	393.1	401.1	474.4	412.9
North East	76.0	93.7	85.4	109.9	93.7
North West	184.2	224.3	216.3	251.4	227.4
South East	303.3	374.5	363.7	398.1	371.1
South West	131.8	185.6	206.1	165.9	163.5
West Midlands	116.6	153.6	139.9	164.9	146.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	154.3	191.6	177.6	202.9	177.0
Northern Ireland	18.2	29.1	25.9	37.5	36.1
Not Identifiable	469.9	363.3	352.2	368.9	378.1
Outside UK	182.2	161.5	254.2	242.4	245.0
Scotland	171.6	205.3	229.8	270.5	266.1
Wales	58.3	71.1	67.2	79.3	81.8
	2,552.3	2,855.1	2,955.9	3,275.2	3,077.5

Science and Research spending follows the Haldane Principle which means that decisions on individual research proposals are best taken by researchers themselves through peer review and not Ministers. The coalition Government support this principle as vital for the protection of academic independence and excellence. Research Council funding is dedicated to supporting excellent research, irrespective of its geographical location. That approach maintains the UK's position against international competition.

The overall profile of expenditure shows a sharp increase in expenditure for 2009-10 and a reduction in 2010-11. This was caused primarily by the previous Government's policy to accelerate capital expenditure, while maintaining the planned budget envelope.

For the new spending review period which started in 2011-12 funding for science and research programmes has been protected in cash terms demonstrating the Government's commitment to rebalancing the economy and promoting economic growth.

Trade Promotion

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that *(a)* small and medium-sized businesses, *(b)* the creative industries and *(c)* the food and drink industry are adequately represented on the British Business Ambassadors Network. [90230]

Mr Prisk: Business ambassadors act as powerful advocates of the UK—they are some of our top business people and academics, many of whom have built successful global businesses from small company beginnings. Their responsibilities go far beyond representing their current business roles or interests and they are expected to represent the sector in which they have built their expertise and knowledge. They have a very clear remit, which includes:

promoting the UK economy and the UK business environment;

lobbying to remove barriers to market access;

leading events for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and

helping UK SMEs to access overseas business opportunities.

The Business Ambassadors Network not only includes a wide range of expertise and experience, but also a new generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders. In the case of the creative industries and food and drink sectors, we have experts in the form of Sir John Sorrell (chairman, London Design Festival) and Sir David Reid (former chairman, Tesco).

Although it is not possible to cover every individual sub-sector, we regularly review the network with the aim of expanding its overall sectoral coverage.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanism his Department has put in place to assess the effectiveness of the British Business Ambassadors Network. [90243]

Mr Prisk: Given the nature of the business ambassadors' role, it is difficult to measure the specific impact of their involvement in a particular campaign. However in trying to measure their impact, we have chosen to assess the network's effectiveness in communicating core messages about the UK, and promoting UK excellence to as many potential customers and inward investors as possible. This includes where appropriate media coverage and feedback from UKTI trade teams overseas on events; and from discussion with the business ambassadors themselves to ensure we learn from each event and tailor activities to the strengths and interests of each business ambassador.

A summary list of activities undertaken by the Business Ambassadors Network throughout 2011 will be placed in the Libraries of the House. A copy will also be published at:

http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/aboutukti/keypeople/businessambassadors.html

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* name, *(b)* country of origin and *(c)* sector expertise is of each member of the Catalyst UK network. [90244]

Mr Prisk: There are currently 128 Catalyst members, of which 76 are UK based and 52 overseas. We have members of many nationalities including British (80), Indian (12), US (eight), Chinese (seven), South African (four) and French (three).

Principal sectors that members represent are ICT (38), health care (21), creative industries (21) and financial services (18). The remaining 30 cover sectors which include aerospace, professional and business services, engineering, environment, marine and defence, chemicals, sustainable development, oil and gas, mining, agri-tech and power.

UKTI currently recruits Catalyst members on the basis that their details will be held confidentially. We are considering the development of a public listing.

UK Trade & Investment

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what strategy UK Trade & Investment has put in place to increase its work with small and medium-sized businesses. [90235]

Mr Prisk: UKTI's strategy, "Britain Open for Business", recognises the need to encourage many more small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to export as central to the Government's drive for growth through international trade. The Government's autumn statement allocated increased funding for UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), to help it double its client base to 50,000 SMEs per year by 2015. This will include a new focus on helping 1,500 more mid-sized businesses (MSBs) to export each year and bringing the annual number of MSBs supported to 3,000 each year by 2015.

UKTI will not work in isolation to deliver this ambition. We are developing new delivery partnerships with professional and intermediary organisations such as banks, accountants and lawyers to raise awareness of the benefits of exporting to SME businesses. The Prime Minister launched a national export challenge at a conference in London on 10 November 2011, entitled "Exporting for Growth", which brought together around 400 intermediaries. At that event the Minister of State for Trade and Investment my noble Friend the Lord Green, launched a national campaign to highlight the valuable role professionals and organisations closest to UK firms can have in encouraging them to pursue growth through exports. Similar events are now being held throughout the UK. Separately, successful partnership marketing agreements, or memorandum of understandings (MOUs), are in place with Alibaba, Entrepreneur Country, Telegraph and Companies House, which are already delivering client marketing opportunities.

In addition to the increased outreach, the additional resources will allow us to increase the level of support for UK companies in the regions and in high growth markets. This will enable us to reach more businesses, providing access to the range of services we have to offer, including: access to a local International Trade Advisor; specialist help with tackling cultural and language issues; advice on how to go about market research; and ongoing support to help businesses continue to develop their export potential and enter new and more sophisticated markets. Once the initial research has been done, UKTI can assist businesses with information, contacts, practical assistance, advice, mentoring and ongoing help before they go overseas and while they are there.

Finally, encouraging more SMEs to trade in high growth markets is central to our strategy. To aid this we are planning high impact events across the UK to raise awareness about high growth and emerging markets. These events will be delivered in partnership with the Asian Task Force, Latin America and Partner Middle East initiatives. While the UK Indian Business Council and the China Britain Business Council will also be undertaking a programme of outreach events.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to attract business leaders into roles in UK Trade & Investment. [90247]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment's (UKTI) May 2011 Strategy, 'Britain Open for Business', set out how UKTI will develop a more entrepreneurial culture which makes better use of private sector expertise and talent. Over the last year, UKTI has recruited senior figures with extensive business experience to the posts of head of UKTI's new Strategic Relations Team; CEO of Tech City Investment Organisation; heading up UKTI's operation in the United States; and to lead UKTI's efforts to help 50,000 small and medium-sized enterprises into export markets each year. Further senior vacancies will be advertised in due course.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria UK Trade & Investment uses to calculate its budgets for different international markets. [90248]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) uses various criteria to plan the deployment of resources in international markets. UKTI adopts a two stage approach, which is set out as follows.

(i) The identification of international markets using an assessment of:

the size and potential for growth,

the Government's assessment of their strategic political and economic importance,

the security situation,

the strength of scientific, technical and research base,

the performance of UK businesses relative to competitors,

the market match with UK capability, and

the presence of active local partners keen to strengthen trading links with the UK.

(ii) The allocation of budgets based on:

the resources available,

the relative importance of market and potential for growth,

the need for the Government to help British business interests,

the demand for our services from UK businesses,

an evaluation of the productivity of our teams,

how we can deliver more through private sector partners, and

the network shift of FCO resources to emerging powers announced on 11 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 1166, by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague).

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what role sector group task forces have within UK Trade & Investment. [90249]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) has established 18 sector advisory groups consisting of around 200 business representatives from some of the UK's major companies as well as small and medium-sized enterprises with a strong international focus. These groups form an important link to their industries, providing business input, validation and challenge to UKTI's activities. Members give a great deal of their time and energy on a pro-bono basis, advising on UKTI's priorities within their sectors; scoping new export opportunities; hosting inward VIP visitors; and contributing towards government-to-government dialogue.

This is distinct from the role of Minister-led geographical task forces, which are focused on a particular area of the world, such as Asia or the middle east. Both the sector advisory groups and geographical task forces are UK bodies, as distinct from the many joint bodies UKTI organises with partner countries around the world, such as the Joint Economic and Trade Committees with China, India and Brazil.

UK Trade & Investment: Manpower

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff UK Trade & Investment employs in each country in which it has a presence. [90252]

Mr Prisk: UKTI is not an employer in its own right; for the majority of its human resource requirements it draws on civil service staff employed by one or other of its two parent Departments—the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and staff from its private sector contractors.

The latest figures available for the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) people working to UKTI objectives in each market are set out in the following table:

Market	*Total FTEs*
Algeria	4.1
Angola	3.2
Argentina	8.1
Australia	30.08
Austria	6.2
Azerbaijan	2.07
Bahrain	4.2
Bangladesh	3.9
Barbados	3.2
Belgium	16.58
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2.05
Brazil	38.43
Brunei	1.55
Bulgaria	5.1
Canada	31.05
Chile	5
China	92.48
Colombia	5.1
Costa Rica	2
Croatia	3.1
Cuba	2.1
Cyprus	3.05
Czech Republic	9.45
Denmark	10.32
Dominican Republic	2.05
Ecuador	1.7
Egypt	11.1
Estonia	5.6
Ethiopia	2.1
Finland	7.81
France	37.3
Germany	39.53
Ghana	4.1

Market	*Total FTEs*
Greece	7.2
Hong Kong (SAR)	23.85
Hungary	7.2
Iceland	2.07
India	86.75
Indonesia	10.1
Iraq	5.15
Ireland	8.5
Israel	7.58
Italy	22.55
Jamaica	2.08
Japan	47.15
Jordan	5.05
Kazakhstan	5.12
Kenya	4.1
Korea (South)	20.35
Kuwait	6.9
Latvia	3.1
Lebanon	3.1
Libya	1
Lithuania	3.15
Luxembourg	1
Malaysia	17.4
Mexico	30.6
Morocco	4.9
Netherlands	8.9
New Zealand	6.38
Nigeria	13.1
Norway	10.27
Oman	9.2
Pakistan	5.57
Palestinian Territories	1.05
Panama	2.15
Peru	4.1
Philippines	7.37
Poland	16.28
Portugal	10.2
Qatar	9
Romania	9.48
Russia	31.31
Saudi Arabia	24.1
Serbia	3.45
Singapore	18.47
Slovakia	4.1
Slovenia	2.05
South Africa	21.35
Spain	28.2
Sri Lanka	2.7
Sudan	1.1
Sweden	12.81
Switzerland	10.5
Syria	5.1
Taiwan	17.5
Tanzania	2.1
Thailand	12.67
Trinidad and Tobago	2.98
Tunisia	2.7
Turkey	19.9
Uganda	2.1
Ukraine	3.4
United Arab Emirates	24.3
United States	125.5
Venezuela	3.9
Vietnam	14.2
Total FTEs	1,249.19

UK Trade & Investment: PA Consulting Group

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what services PA Consulting provides through its contract with UK Trade & Investment. [90181]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) contract with PA Consulting for the provision of business specialists to support UK small and medium-sized enterprises to understand and access international trade opportunities.

In addition, UKTI contract with PA Consulting to deploy investment advisers across England (with the exception of London who have their own arrangements) to deliver inward investment support services to business. This delivery contract replaced the inward investment services previously delivered by the network of regional development agencies.

UK Trade & Investment: Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many unpaid or expenses-only interns have been employed by UK Trade & Investment since May 2010. [91372]

Mr Davey: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is not an employer in its own right; for the majority of its human resource requirements it draws on civil service staff employed by one or other of its two parent Departments—the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Any interns working for UKTI do so under the graduate intern scheme and are fully paid. Our records indicate that we do not have any interns working in UKTI who are either unpaid or paid expenses only.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Apprentices

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [88721]

Mr Duncan: The public bodies for which the Department for International Development is responsible did not employ any apprentices between April 2010 and December 2011.

The Department does not expect these public bodies to sponsor apprenticeships in the future.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13. [89142]

Mr Duncan: The following funding was allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in the Department for International Development:

	April to March each year	*Funding for apprenticeships (£)*
(a)	2010-11	20,000
(b)	2011-12	10,000
—	2012-13	[1]—

[1] Not yet allocated.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many apprentices were employed by his Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships his Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89211]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development did not recruit any apprentices between April 2010 and December 2011. However, it did sponsor an apprenticeship for a current member of staff.

The Department has confirmed sponsorship of two in-service apprenticeships between January and March 2012. Plans for April 2012 to March 2013 will be finalised following end of year personal development reviews.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the names are of people other than officials and political advisers who have accompanied him and his Ministers on official visits overseas since May 2010. [90392]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development Ministers are accompanied on official overseas visits by Government officials and special advisers only. This information is published every quarter, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines. As is standard practice for overseas visits, journalist may sometimes travel with the Minister at their own expense.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions officials from his Department have had on the development of new agreement mechanisms for *(a)* food insecurity and *(b)* agricultural development in the developing world when the L'Aquila agreement expires in 2013. [90607]

Mr O'Brien: UK officials will hold discussions with their L'Aquila Food Security Initiative and other G20 country counterparts on how best to maintain support for efforts to address food insecurity and promote agriculture sector growth in the run up to the US G8 summit in Chicago in May this year.

Developing Countries: Famine

Dr Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the Save the Children Charter to End Extreme Hunger. [90594]

Mr Duncan: The Government support the aim of the Charter to End Extreme Hunger, which is to reduce the likelihood of crises such as that currently affecting the Horn of Africa taking place in the future. An assessment conducted by the Department for International Development concluded that of the charter's 13 recommendations, the Government are already carrying out seven and considering another two. The four remaining recommendations we deem to be unworkable. The International Development Secretary wrote in November to the non-governmental organisations behind the charter to let them know that therefore the Government would not formally endorse the charter.

In at-risk areas such as the Horn, the Government are already supporting the strengthened warning systems, resilience to disasters and stability that the charter calls for. In Ethiopia, for example, we are helping 7.8 million people to break their need for emergency aid by providing support before food insecurity reaches famine levels. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), has also mobilised a group of high level political champions to make sure that much greater attention is given to disaster resilience in order to reduce the likelihood of similar crises taking place in the future—both in the Horn of Africa and elsewhere.

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what his policy is on the Save the Children Charter to End Extreme Hunger; [90610]

(2) if he plans to hold discussions with representatives of Save the Children on its Charter to End Extreme Hunger; [90611]

(3) what representations he has received on the Save the Children Charter to End Extreme Hunger. [90612]

Mr Duncan: The Government support the aim of the Charter to End Extreme Hunger, which is to reduce the likelihood of crises such as that currently affecting the horn of Africa taking place in the future. This aim was reflected in the commitments made in the Government's Humanitarian Policy, published in September 2011. Analysis conducted by the Department for International Development concluded that the Government are carrying out the substantive points of the charter already but that some of the recommendations are unworkable. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), wrote in November to the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) behind the charter, including Save the Children, to let them know that the Government support their aims but would not formally endorse the charter.

This letter was in response to an invitation from the NGOs behind the charter inviting the Government to study their recommendations. As well as this, the Secretary of State for International Development has received correspondence about the charter from Members of

Parliament and members of the public. The issue was also discussed at the Department for International Development's quarterly meeting with the British Overseas Aid Group, of which, Save the Children is a member.

East Africa: Droughts

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the famine in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [90583]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: There has been a fragile improvement in the situation over the last few months. The number of people affected by the famine and at risk of imminent death has reduced from 750,000 to 250,000—in part thanks to the dramatic scale-up of relief assistance led by the UK and others. However, tens of thousands of people have died, four million people remain in need of emergency assistance, and the current challenges to humanitarian access mean that a further deterioration is possible.

The Department for International Development is finalising planned early UK contributions towards the United Nations' led 2012 Somalia humanitarian Consolidated Appeal, to support further assistance efforts where possible.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had on the UK's contribution to the 2012 Consolidated Appeals for Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti. [90603]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's support to the consolidated appeals this year will build on that provided in 2011. Since July, British aid in Somalia has contributed to lifting 500,000 people out of famine and has directly reached 130,000 people with food, treated 15,000 starving children, vaccinated over a million children against measles and provided seeds, fertiliser and vaccinations for livestock benefiting over 75,000 farmers and herders. In Kenya, since July British aid has supported the distribution of food to prevent malnutrition to 260,000 children and pregnant or breastfeeding mothers in drought affected areas; and in the Dadaab refugee camps provided access to clean water for 90,000 people and sanitation for 66,000.

My Department is currently finalising planned early contributions towards the 2012 Somalia Consolidated Appeal, which I expect to announce shortly. We are also designing new multi-year nutrition and refugee programmes in Kenya, which are in line with the Kenya Consolidated Appeal.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the recent famine in the Horn of Africa; and if he will make a statement. [90615]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Based on data collected by the UN, latest UK estimates show that, from April to August 2011, between 50,000 and 100,000 people may have died due to drought-related causes, over half of whom were children under five. The full extent of death caused by the drought may never be known.

British support has already helped triple the number of people receiving food each month and had a major role in reducing cases of measles by almost half. So far, British aid has:

fed 2.4 million people, including nearly 500,000 children and pregnant or breastfeeding mothers who are receiving supplementary nutritional packages;

vaccinated 1.3 million people against measles and 680,000 against polio;

provided 400,000 doses of anti-malarial medication in Somalia;

provided 1.2 million people with clean water and sanitation equipment such as latrines; and

given 200,000 people seeds and fertilizer to enable them to plant crops now conditions are improving.

In addition over the past month, a further 9,000 tonnes of British-funded food supplies and lifesaving medicines have arrived, enough to feed 800,000 people and provide medical treatment for 75,000.

EU Law

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88973]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development has not brought into force any legislation that has originated from proposals by the European Commission in 2010 or 2011.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which EU *(a)* directives, *(b)* regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting his Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89699]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not have any EU directives, regulations or other legislation that require transposition into UK law.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany; on which dates those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90699]

Mr O'Brien: My Department does not hold information about the implementation of regulations in other member states. In the area of International Development policy there are no EU regulations which national authorities in EU member states have responsibility for applying directly in their country.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90714]

Mr O'Brien: In the area of International Development policy there are no EU regulations that require implementation in the UK.

Food Aid: East Africa

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much Government aid was given to East African countries to alleviate the food shortages in the last financial year for which figures are available. [90007]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided a total of £48.35 million in aid to East African countries to alleviate food shortages in the financial year 2010-11.

A copy of a table showing the breakdown of aid given to East African countries will be submitted to the House Library.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he is taking steps to avert a food crisis in West Africa. [90008]

Mr O'Brien: The EC Humanitarian Office (ECHO) estimates that 6.8 million people are currently food insecure across the Sahel. This is due to a decline in the 2011 harvest, combined with unseasonably high cereal prices across West Africa.

In response to early warning signals, the UN released the sum of £7.8 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to address needs in Niger and Chad. The UK is the largest donor to the CERF, and the UK's share of this is £1.9 million.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has been monitoring the food security situation in a number of countries in West Africa over the past few months. DFID officials have also been closely liaising with their opposite numbers in other governments, and with officials from the Red Cross, the United Nations and leading non-governmental organisations.

DFID officials will be visiting the region later this month to assess the current situation.

Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the UK will make a contribution to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme. [90606]

Mr O'Brien: Ministers are considering whether providing funds for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme would represent value for money and make a significant, additional contribution to our support for agriculture and food and nutrition security in developing countries.

Migration: Climate Change

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has any plans to respond to the Government Office for Science's Foresight report entitled Migration and Global Environmental Change. [89091]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) welcomes the publication of the Foresight report on Migration and Global Environmental Change. The report has important implications for DFID's work in three areas. First, internal migration is a normal part of the livelihoods strategies of poor people in developing countries to enable them to adapt to environmental change. Second, much of this movement will be to low-lying coastal cities which increases the strain on resources and the vulnerability of poor people to catastrophic events. Third, many poor people will remain trapped in areas subject to the effects of environmental changes and unable to adapt through internal migration, and they will require additional support to enable them to become resilient to these changes.

Nigeria: Police

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the Government have provided for the training of police in Nigeria. [90557]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Through the Justice for All programme, the Department for International Development provides training to the Nigerian police force. The programme assists the Nigerian police on community policing, better management and improved oversight.

The Justice for All programme started in November 2010 and runs to 2015. The programme has a strong focus on security aspects affecting women and girls.

Sahel: Agriculture

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of the risk of a food crisis developing in the Sahel; and what steps his Department is taking to counter any such risk. [90604]

Mr O'Brien: The EC Humanitarian Office (ECHO) estimates that 6.8 million men, women and children across the Sahel region of west Africa are at risk of severe food shortages in the coming months. This is due to a decline in the 2011 harvest, combined with unseasonably high cereal prices across west Africa.

In direct response to these early warning signals, my Department has announced an urgent package of support to help mitigate the crisis. British aid will help treat 68,000 severely malnourished children in Niger, Chad and Mali and provide animal feed and vaccinations to 30,000 families to keep their livestock alive.

In addition, British aid is already reaching those in need through the release of £7.8 million from the United Nation's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)—to which Britain is a major contributor.

DFID officials will continue to monitor the situation closely and will liaise closely with their opposite numbers in other governments, and with officials from the Red Cross, the United Nations and leading non-governmental organisations.

DFID officials will be visiting the region later this month to further assess the current situation.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase the livelihood resilience of *(a)* rural populations and *(b)* smallholders in the Sahel. [90605]

Mr O'Brien: My Department is currently preparing a Sahel Resilience Strategy. This was part of a commitment made in response to the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review (HERR) last year to champion the development of regional resilience plans where appropriate and with those best placed to do so (particularly in the multilateral system), starting with the Sahel and the Caribbean. The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have bilateral development programmes in the Sahel, but works through a regional and multilateral mechanism.

In terms of support for livelihoods resilience in the Sahel, the UK is already funding the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which is promoting agricultural-led economic growth to reduce poverty. A number of Sahelian countries have prepared investment plans for CAADP and the programme has an important role to play building the resilience of smallholders. DFID is also a major funder of the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR), which includes Niger as one the priority countries. PPCR is supporting a $63 million programme in Niger to improve the resilience of the populations and production systems to climate change and variability, in order to increase national food security.

In addition to the aforementioned work on resilience, and in direct response to early warning signals of a looming food crisis in the region, my Department has announced an urgent package of support to help mitigate the crisis.

British aid will help treat 68,000 severely malnourished children in Niger, Chad and Mali and provide animal feed and vaccinations to 30,000 families to keep their livestock alive.

DFID officials will continue to monitor the situation closely and will be visiting the region later this month to further assess the situation.

Trade Promotion

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of foreign governments including the promotion of the business interests of particular companies since May 2010. [90393]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of all Ministers' external meetings are available on the Department for International Development website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Ministers/

and are published every quarter in the normal way.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 24 January 2012

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the size and role of EUFOR Althea in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [90961]

Mr Lidington: We support the EUFOR Althea mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We welcomed the EU agreement in October 2011 to continue to maintain the mission in support of its executive mandate, which was renewed by the UN Security Council in November 2011. We believe the mission acts as an important safeguard against instability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and plays a key role in building the capacity of the Bosnian armed forces. The UK Government will continue to support the mission through the provision of personnel and financial contributions.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has taken steps to encourage the full publication of the results of the National Assembly elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [91298]

Alistair Burt: We have lobbied strongly, and called publicly for the Democratic Republic of Congo electoral commission (CENI) to take every measure to ensure that the compilation and publication of results of the National Assembly elections is free of irregularities. We expect that the full results of the DRC national assembly elections will be published by the end of January. There have been delays, but the DRC electoral commission (CENI) is publishing results on its website as they become available.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence his Department has had with the electoral commission (CENI) of the Democratic Republic of Congo. [91299]

Alistair Burt: Our ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo met Pastor Ngoy Mulunda, the head of the DRC electoral commission (CENI) several times during December 2011 and January 2012. Our embassy in Kinshasa has also corresponded with CENI about its request for the UK to provide technical assistance ahead of the legislative assembly result. However, CENI has not provided us with details of its specific requirements.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the legitimacy of the outcome of the recent presidential election in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [91300]

Alistair Burt: We share the concerns of some observation missions about the irregularities, some serious, during the recent elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, no observation mission has yet judged that the overall result of the presidential election would have been changed by these irregularities. We await their final reports.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Islington North of 20 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1190W, on Congo: politics and government, if he will publish any correspondence sent by the British Ambassador in Kinshasa as part of the lobbying activity referred to in the Answer. [91294]

Alistair Burt: Our ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo lobbied those to whom the previous answer referred in a number of meetings held during December 2011 and January 2012. The ambassador sent no correspondence as part of this lobbying effort.

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department is giving to British Overseas Territories to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. [91039]

Alistair Burt: We are working closely with colleagues from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, who have overall responsibility for co-ordinating Government support for the Diamond Jubilee, and with Buckingham Palace, to ensure that the Overseas Territories are fully involved in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, including the river pageant

We are also supporting Overseas Territories' Governments in their plans to hold Diamond Jubilee celebrations in the Territories, which, for many, will include lighting a Beacon to mark the occasion.

Citizens of the Overseas Territories will also be eligible for the Diamond Jubilee medal in line with the agreed eligibility criteria.

Iran: Diplomatic Relations

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the Government of Iran on provision of compensation for recent damage to the British Embassy in Tehran; and what its response has been. [90913]

Alistair Burt: We are currently assessing the damage caused to our embassy in Tehran and the associated costs caused by recent events, and will be seeking compensation from the Government of Iran, who have given initial assurances that compensation will be paid.

Morocco: British Nationals Abroad

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of UK citizens who visited Morocco in each of the last five years. [91267]

Alistair Burt: Morocco is a popular destination for many UK citizens. Visitor numbers for the past five years are:

	Number
2007	336,693
2008	274,747
2009	252,945
2010	338,060
2011	[1]204,864

[1] January to July inclusive

Source:

Moroccan Ministry of Tourism

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the political situation in Balochistan, Pakistan following reports of killings and kidnappings of Baloch people. [91027]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) monitors human rights reporting closely, including non-governmental organisation reporting, and the FCO will be publishing its 2011 Annual Human Rights Report this March.

The allegations about Balochistan are extremely serious, and we continue to emphasise to the Pakistani authorities the importance of investigating thoroughly any accusations of extrajudicial killings or enforced disappearances. The passing in the National Assembly in December 2011 of a Bill creating a National Commission on Human Rights should help to investigate such violations.

The Government of Pakistan faces a difficult law and order situation in Balochistan, including kidnappings and terrorism. Our high commission in Islamabad and our deputy high commission in Karachi engage regularly with the Government of Pakistan and the provincial government in Balochistan on matters of security, rule of law and human rights. Officials also meet representatives of the Baloch community. We urge that action to counter militant or insurgent activity is conducted in line with Pakistan's obligations under national and international law.

Spain: Tourism

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to provide information for UK tourists in Spain of limitations on the import to the UK via Spain of duty free products purchased in Gibraltar. [90927]

Mr Lidington: Information for UK tourists on duty free products purchased in Gibraltar is provided on the Foreign Office's Gibraltar travel advice pages. There is general advice on the import and export of goods (e.g. tobacco and alcohol) as well as advice on exporting to Spain and directly to the UK from Gibraltar because of its position outside the Common Customs Area. We will review the Gibraltar travel advice to ensure that it is clear.

Tuareg People

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the situation of the Tuareg people in *(a)* Libya, *(b)* Niger, *(c)* Mali and *(d)* Chad. [91260]

Alistair Burt: The British Government continue to monitor the situation of the Tuareg in Libya, Niger, Mali and Chad. We are concerned by recent reports of clashes between Tuareg rebels returning from Libya and Malian security forces. We do not condone armed action by rebel groups. We encourage all parties to find peaceful solutions, leading to the full integration of Tuareg communities into society.

In Libya the Tuareg were often marginalised. But many joined the Libyan army and were perceived as supportive of the former Gaddafi regime. We are aware of media reporting that some Tuareg fighters have travelled to other countries in the region since Gaddafi's fall. We believe that anyone who may have committed crimes in the past should be held to account under transitional justice arrangements. But we also look to the new Libyan authorities—such as those soon to draft a new constitution —to ensure protection for the rights of members of those groups. We have raised the issue and will continue to do so.

Overseas Trade

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Third Special Report from the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee, HC 1545, paragraph 14, when his Department plans to publish its scoping paper on how to extract the best possible value from HMG's market access. [90245]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), officials met on 13 September for a stock take of how market access issues are handled across Government, with the aim of ensuring an integrated Whitehall-wide approach to addressing market access barriers.

The Departments are keen to ensure any overhaul of the current mechanisms does not add a layer of bureaucracy; any changes must result in direct benefits for business or improve Government efficiency. A light touch approach has been agreed to include the identification of areas where Departments need to work together and ensure information is shared appropriately. Accordingly, a stock-take report was not produced.

Good progress has been made in delivering the UKTI strategy and implementing the FCO Charter for Business. HMG recognises the importance of fully utilising the UK's diplomatic network overseas and ministerial visits to assist in delivering value to UK business. Ministerial visits briefings have a strong focus on the UK's top commercial priorities including key market access issues, ensuring Ministers, and our diplomatic network overseas, are lobbying host Governments on the commercial and trade issues of most importance to British business interests.

Further close working across Government, and in consultation with business, is also being taken forward on a number of other fronts. For instance, we have consulted with business on our top market access issues in regards to China, building our joint understanding of the issues with a view to addressing these through a combination of our commercial diplomacy work and in influencing the European Commission to address UK priorities in bilateral trade discussions.

In addition, DEFRA, as part of a joint Government/industry agri-food export action plan to be published later this month, will be working with industry experts and colleagues in BIS, UKTI and FCO to build up the HMG assessment of barriers to trade facing UK agri-food companies in key markets. This will raise cross-Government awareness of the obstacles facing this sector, and help build a co-ordinated lobbying effort.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Standards

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to tackle black mould in council properties. [90451]

Andrew Stunell: The Decent Homes Standard was introduced in 2001 to ensure that council properties meet a statutory minimum standard and are free from serious hazards (category 1) as defined by the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. Damp and mould growth is a category 1 hazard. Councils are under a duty to take action in such cases.

Council Tax Benefits

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely change in take-up of council tax benefit by pensioners in preparing his proposals for council tax benefit localisation. [91477]

Robert Neill: The Government intends pensioner council tax support should not be reduced as a result of the introduction of this reform, and is therefore proposing to continue the current systems of criteria and allowances.

Those pensioners in most need and who qualify for pension credit guarantee credit will continue to be eligible for 100% council tax support. Others will continue to be means-tested. The Government envisages there will be minimal changes to the way council tax support is delivered for pensioners as a result.

As previously championed by the Royal British Legion, the Local Government Finance Bill will make council tax support a rebate/discount—rather than a benefit.

The previous Government changed the law to rename council tax benefit, but never enacted their own provisions.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to place on his Department's website details of Ministerial overseas travel, gifts and hospitality for the period *(a)* May to July 2011 and *(b)* August to October 2011. [91479]

Robert Neill: Data covering the period April to June 2011 can be found on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyingovernment/ministerialdata/

In line with other Government Departments, we will publish data for the quarters July to September 2011 and October to December 2011 in due course.

Empty Property: Shops

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the *(a)* Community Right to Buy and *(b)* Community Right to Try proposals for empty shops on high streets. [90926]

Grant Shapps: No formal assessment has been made of the Assets of Community Value provisions (Right to Bid) contained in the Localism Act 2011 as the provisions and the relevant secondary legislation have yet to be commenced. In England, the provisions will be commenced later this year. Commencement of the legislation in Wales is a devolved matter.

The Government will respond to the Portas Review in the spring.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effect of proposed funding reductions for Metropolitan fire services on their capacity to secure *(a)* specialist equipment and *(b)* capability for national resilience. [91598]

Robert Neill: As the delivery of fire services—including national resilience—are a local matter, determined by individual fire and rescue authorities, no formal assessment of the effect on metropolitan fire and rescue services has been undertaken by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

I also refer my hon. Friend to my letter of 6 December 2010 to the hon. Member for Derby North (Chris Williamson), a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, which outlines how fire and rescue authorities can make sensible savings without impacting on the quality and breadth of services offered to their communities.

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the percentage efficiency savings achieved in each fire authority area since 2004. [91600]

Robert Neill: On coming into power the coalition Government decided to cease the burdensome requirement on fire and rescue authorities to report to Government their efficiency savings. As well as imposing an administrative burden, such notional figures were also potentially misleading. As the delivery of fire services—including efficiency savings—are a local matter, determined by individual fire and rescue authorities, no formal assessment of efficiency savings since 2004 has been undertaken by the coalition Government.

Fire and rescue authorities are accountable to their communities; they publish their expenditure so people can see how costs and savings are arrived at.

Fire Services: Training

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to review the level of joint training undertaken by fire and ambulance services. [91064]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* My Department is working with other Government Departments and the emergency services to improve joint ways of working in response to particular identified risks. In particular, in response to the Report of the Coroner's Inquests into the London bombings of 7 July 2005, the Government agreed that it would co-ordinate a wider review of multi-agency considerations in single-service training. The Cabinet Office are co-ordinating this review and will ensure that results are made available once it is completed.

Housing Benefit

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the time it will take to re-house those seeking to move to a smaller property following implementation of the proposed limit on housing benefit for tenants who under-occupy their property. [90888]

Grant Shapps: No central estimate has been made. However, initiatives like "HomeSwap Direct" will make it easier for social tenants to move home, whilst protecting their security of tenure.

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many alternative properties are available for those seeking to downsize as a result of the proposed limit to housing benefit for tenants who are under-occupying their property. [90988]

Grant Shapps: We estimate that 560,000 households in England will be affected by this measure, with 440,000 of these under-occupying their social homes by 1 bedroom.

The introduction of "HomeSwap Direct" will provide all social tenants with the opportunity to search for matches, allowing under-occupying households to swap with those who may be overcrowded.

In addition, provisions in the Localism Act will remove transferring tenants who are not in housing need from the allocation rules. This will enable councils to support under-occupying tenants to find a more suitably sized property, and free up family-sized housing for other households in need.

Local Government: Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to require local authorities to publish their spending in the voluntary sector; if he will publish aggregate figures *(a)* by region and *(b)* nationally; and if he will make a statement. [91353]

Robert Neill: Local authorities are required by the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency to publish all expenditure over £500—including costs, supplier and transaction information—on a regular basis. The code also states that copies of contracts, tenders and grants to the voluntary and community sector should be clearly itemised and listed.

Officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government are working with the Local Government Association on an initiative to improve the comparability of data on local authorities' spending in the voluntary and community sector, including expenditure under £500.

The Government are committed to reducing data burdens placed on local authorities. For this reason, the Government do not intend to impose a new data burden on local authorities to submit sector spend data for central aggregation and publication.

Rents

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the use of upward-only rent reviews; and if he will make a statement. [90979]

Grant Shapps: The trend towards shorter leases, which do not include rent reviews, has meant that the upward only rent review clause is not as prevalent as it once was. The 2007 Code for Leasing Business Premises includes the recommendation to landlords that they should take a flexible approach to rent review clauses in lease negotiations. This includes the consideration of alternatives to upward only rent reviews. The need to promote the code and encourage the take up of its recommendations in full is something I recognise and am already working towards. Recommendation 18 of the Portas review of the high street, makes specific reference to the promotion of the leasing code and we will be providing a response to the report in the spring.

Shops: Empty Property

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of shops are empty in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England; and what assessment he has made of these statistics. [91593]

Grant Shapps: This information is not held centrally. While there are commercial providers of such data, these tend to be focused on limited geographical areas such as town centres, rather than entire administrative areas.

However, shop vacancies are naturally of concern, and are a visible indicator of the plight of our high streets. This is one of the reasons why the Prime Minister asked Mary Portas to undertake her review of the high street, the report of which was published on 13 December 2011. The report made a number of recommendations for revitalising struggling high streets, and the Government will be responding to these in the spring.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Football

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage *(a)* five-a-side leagues and *(b)* investment from businesses operating five-a-side leagues into school and community pitches. [90819]

Hugh Robertson: The new Football Association (FA) National Game Strategy 2011-15 has an increased focus on providing local and flexible formats of football to suit changing consumer lifestyles. More specifically, the FA is working to affiliate and develop football in the commercial small-sided sector. This is a key focus of the participation investment that Sport England makes to the FA. Further information can be found at:

http://www.thefa.com/GetIntoFootball/NewsAndFeatures/2011/national-game-strategy-refresh-011211

The new youth sport strategy will aim to improve links between schools and community sports clubs. By 2017 we will have established at least 6,000 new school-club links. Football has pledged that 2,000 of its clubs will be linked to secondary schools. In addition, every County Sport Partnership will have a dedicated officer responsible for making links between schools and community sports clubs in their local area. Further information can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8761.aspx

Online Piracy

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK of measures contained in the US Stop Online Piracy Act. [91259]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has made no assessment.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the use of bioliquids to reduce carbon emissions for off-mains gas households. [91444]

Gregory Barker: As part of the work on the Heat Strategy, which will be published later this year, we have considered a wide range of technologies and the role they can play in decarbonising domestic heating. The strategy will underline the particular importance of encouraging households off the gas grid to take up low carbon heating alternatives.

As stated in the Renewable Heat Incentive policy document (published in March 2011), we are considering whether to support bioliquids as part of developing the second phase of the scheme.

Radioactive Waste: Scotland

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to delay all movements of radioactive materials from Scotland to England for the purposes of long-term storage or disposal until policies are developed which will ensure the return of those materials to Scotland in the event of Scottish independence. [91599]

Charles Hendry: The Government are clear that Scotland benefits from being part of UK and the UK benefits from having Scotland within it. The Government are not making plans for independence as we are confident that people in Scotland will continue to support the Union in any referendum.

The Government do not therefore see the need to change their policy in respect of movements of radioactive materials from Scotland to England for the purposes of long-term storage or disposal. This includes the existing spent fuel movements, from Torness and Hunterston B nuclear power stations, which the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority are contracted to receive and spent Magnox fuel from Chapelcross which will continue to be transported to Sellafield for reprocessing.

Also the NDA has consulted on moving Dounreay Fast Reactor material to Sellafield for reprocessing, as this represents the best way of dealing with this UK legacy material.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Scottish Government, *(b)* HM Treasury and *(c)* the Prime Minister with regard to the transportation of Scottish radioactive wastes to England. [91601]

Charles Hendry: The NDA is responsible for the clean-up of the UK's legacy civil nuclear sites; reporting both to UK and Scottish ministers as set out in the Energy Act (2004). As part of this approach the authority has to agree its strategy with both the UK and Scottish Governments on how best to decommission sites, including where it is most appropriate to treat material. This may require the transport of material between sites, taking account of relevant UK and Scottish policies. The Department discusses such matters with other Government Departments and the Scottish Government as necessary.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the legal changes that would be required to retain Scottish radioactive waste in England in the event of Scottish independence. [91602]

Charles Hendry: The Government are clear that Scotland benefits from being part of UK and the UK benefits from having Scotland within it. The Government are not making plans for independence as we are confident that people in Scotland will continue to support the Union in any referendum. The NDA reports to both UK and Scottish Ministers in relation to its activities, as required by the Energy Act (2004).

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* short, *(b)* medium and *(c)* long-term economic and environmental benefits will be provided to Copeland in the event that radioactive materials from Dounreay are transported to Sellafield. [91603]

Charles Hendry: Sellafield is in the unique position of having the expertise and infrastructure to deal safely and effectively with a range of materials from NDA sites. This enables the NDA to deliver effective progress on the UK-wide decommissioning and clean-up programme. As part of this approach, the NDA is able to make significant and continuing investments in the Sellafield site and west Cumbria generally through its support for the Britain's Energy Coast programme. Any legitimate community impacts resulting from this programme of activity can be dealt with effectively through the planning process and discussions between planning authorities and the NDA.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if his Department will commission the development of a financial framework agreement for *(a)* the treatment, storage and disposal of Scottish radioactive waste in England and *(b)* the removal and transportation of Scottish radioactive waste to Scotland from England in the event of Scottish independence. [91604]

Charles Hendry: The NDA is funded by the UK Government and reports to both UK and Scottish Ministers in relation to its activities, as required by the Energy Act (2004). The Government are clear that Scotland benefits from being part of UK and the UK benefits from having Scotland within it. The Government are not making plans for independence as we are confident that people in Scotland will continue to support the Union in any referendum. For low level waste disposal, facilities can, subject to environmental regulation, compete on a commercial basis for contracts to receive consignments from anywhere in the UK and this ensures a complementary approach to radioactive waste management.

Renewables Obligation

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was paid to renewable electricity generators in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Wales in respect of renewable obligation certificates in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) 2009 and (iv) 2010. [89733]

Charles Hendry: The total level of renewables obligation support[1] for the UK for 2007-08 to 2010-11 is set out in the following table. The support level by country has not been estimated.

Renewables obligation support

	£ million nominal
2007-08	876
2008-09	1036
2009-10	1119
2010-11	1285

Supporting renewable electricity helps the UK meet its renewable energy targets and brings wider benefits, including decarbonising the electricity mix, innovation benefits and creating jobs in the renewables industries and their supply chains.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason measures to reduce air pollution were not included in her Department's 2011-12 business plan. [90804]

Richard Benyon: Departmental business plans are intended to set out the structural reform priorities and do not include every policy responsibility or work programme led by the Department. The fact that air quality is not explicitly mentioned in the DEFRA business plan, published in May 2011, does not in any way reflect a lack of importance attached to air quality or its significance as a cross-government issue.

The health and environmental benefits that can be obtained from improving air quality remain the key drivers for action in this area. DEFRA is also committed, through the coalition agreement, to work towards full compliance with EU air quality standards.

The Natural Environment White Paper, published in summer 2011, set out our specific commitments on air quality including: our consultation on plans for the achievement of NO_2 limit values; action to investigate further use of low emission zones; and improving arrangements for local air quality management and delivery. Collectively, these continue to ensure that air quality is given priority across government policies. However, we will give further consideration to this as part of the review of our business plan during 2012.

Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that *(a)* animal welfare and *(b)* animal health experts are represented on the Animal Health and Welfare Board. [89565]

Mr Paice: In line with the recommendations of the England Advisory Group on Responsibility and Cost-sharing, the non executive members of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England are appointed as individuals rather than representatives of organisations, sector or interest groups. They bring a range of expertise and skills to the board's deliberations. The board can also access further expertise when the need arises.

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[1] Defined as the level of the renewables obligation in ROCs multiplied by the buyout price in pounds per ROC. These two pieces of information are set out in Ofgem 's annual renewables obligation reports.

Animal Welfare: Cormorants

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was to the public purse to administer the cormorant licensing regime in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [91433]

Richard Benyon: The licensing regime for the management of cormorants in England is administered on behalf of the Government by Natural England.

Cormorant licences are generally issued over the period between September and April in a given season, and based on those issued over 2010-11. Natural England estimates the administration costs to amount to some £89,000.

Birds of Prey

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the predation of song birds by sparrowhawks. [90209]

Richard Benyon: The effect of raptors, including sparrowhawks on the songbird and racing pigeon populations was reviewed in the multi-stakeholder Raptor Working Group's report to Ministers in 2000. Since then, these issues have been the subject of further research involving stakeholder organisations. Population trends of sparrowhawks and songbirds are monitored annually by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee Breeding Bird Survey (BBS).

The Raptor Working Group concluded

> "that it has primarily been changes of agricultural practices, rather than recoveries of lowland raptor populations, that have been responsible for the widespread declines in many formerly common farmland birds."

A major study (published in 2010) by the BTO and funded by SongBird Survival, used information made available by partners in the BBS and compared detailed bird observations at over 200 sites in the period 1967-2000 with those of over 2,000 volunteers surveying sites during the period 1995-2005 and was the most sophisticated, long-term and large-scale analysis of its kind ever undertaken. It found that, for 22 of the 29 songbird species examined, there was no evidence that increases in common avian predators (including sparrowhawks) and grey squirrels were associated with large-scale depression of prey abundance or population declines. For the majority of declining species with unfavourable conservation status population, declines appeared to be due to factors other than predation. Other studies have suggested that recent songbird population changes have been influenced by a range of other factors, most notably changes in farmland and woodland management.

Among the seven species in which there were significant negative effects of particular predators, associations between the increase in the number of sparrowhawks during the period 1967-2000 and declines in the abundances of bullfinches, tree sparrows and reed buntings will help to identify priorities for future work on the effects of predation on songbird populations.

Countryside: Access

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to facilitate better access to, and enjoyment of, the English countryside by members of the public. [90555]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is responsible for policies which help to provide and manage access to the countryside, including setting the legislative and policy framework for public rights of way, and access to open country and registered common land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. We sponsor our National Park Authorities and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which are responsible for the management of, and access to, some of our finest areas of countryside; we also sponsor Natural England which has a strong role in promoting access to the natural environment.

We are committed to introducing the right of coastal access under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 on a stretch of the English coast at Weymouth in time for the start of the 2012 Games. We are aiming to open up a further five areas around the English coast by 2014-15.

We are working with Natural England on plans for Paths for Communities, which is a new initiative to help local community partnerships to develop improved local path networks to boost tourist revenue in their area. We have allocated £2 million to the initiative as part of the Rural Economy Growth Review. Natural England hopes to announce detailed arrangements in April 2012.

Flood Control

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for work on flood and coastal environmental risk management schemes in each English region in 2012-13; and how much her Department plans to allocate to *(a)* the Environment Agency and *(b)* others for such schemes in 2012-13 [91284]

Richard Benyon: Decisions on allocations of funds for 2012-13 are subject to the final approval of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees and sign off by the Environment Agency Board, which will meet in early February.

In 2012-13, DEFRA will allocate £251.4 million (revenue) and £258.8 million (capital) to the Environment Agency for flood and coastal erosion risk management which includes funding for schemes taken forward by local authorities and internal drainage boards.

Nature Conservation: EU Law

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to review the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive. [91269]

Richard Benyon: As announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), in the Autumn Statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, DEFRA is currently conducting an in-depth review of how the EU Habitats and Birds Directives are currently being implemented in England, working with stakeholders and other Government Departments.

The vast majority of development projects successfully meet the directives' requirements but a small number raise particularly complex issues which can give rise to delays. The review is looking at the reasons behind this and is seeking to identify solutions, engaging interested parties in its work, while maintaining the integrity of the purpose of the directives. The review will report in March.

Further information on the review, including its terms of reference, can be found on the DEFRA website.

Sky Lanterns

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government is taking to limit the effect of sky lanterns on *(a)* crops, *(b)* coastguard and *(c)* fire services. [91411]

Richard Benyon: The Government recognise that there are problems with the release of sky lanterns, including fire risks or false call-outs to coastguards if people seeing the lanterns think they are emergency flares. Our approach is to raise public awareness and ask people, wherever they are, to think before they use them, including contacting the coastguard if they are planning to launch these lanterns near the coast.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects her Department to conclude resolution of the backlog of legacy asylum cases. [90773]

Damian Green: As Jonathan Sedgwick, then acting chief executive of the UK Border Agency (UKBA), reported to the Home Affairs Committee on 12 September 2011, 479,000 of the 500,500 cases in the legacy programme had been fully concluded by summer 2011.

Some 23,000 remaining cases were fully reviewed but due to various barriers could not be brought to a final conclusion. The UKBA established the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) to remove such barriers and bring these cases to a final conclusion. Rob Whiteman, chief executive of the UKBA, reported to the HASC on 22 December that the number of live cases had reduced to 17,000. CAAU will continue to progress these cases and resolve them as barriers are lifted.

CAAU is also responsible for the active monitoring of 98,000 controlled archive cases. As Rob Whiteman reported to the HASC on 22 December, this has now reduced to 93,000 cases and the UKBA has committed to reduce this to fewer than 50,000 cases by April 2013.

Procurement

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which pilots her Department currently has open on procurement. [91136]

Damian Green: The Home Department, including its executive agencies, currently has no pilots open on procurement.

Deportation: Egypt

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were deported from the UK to Egypt in each year since 1982. [91693]

Damian Green: The following table provides the available information on the number of all nationals who were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK to Egypt between January 2004 and September 2011. Destination data have only been collated since 2004; data for earlier years are not available.

Total removals and voluntary departures[1, 2], to Egypt[3], January 2004 to September 2011[4]

	Number of departures
2004	99
2005	141
2006	127
2007	176
2008	224
2009	211
2010[4]	190
January to September 2011[4]	143

[1] Includes enforced removals, people departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, people leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by Refugee Action (prior to April 2011, run by the International Organisation for Migration) and people who it has been established left without informing the immigration authorities.

[2] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[3] Destination as recorded on source database.

[4] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures by country of destination are available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: July—September 2011, tables rv.06 and rv.06.q, from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Human Trafficking: Repatriation

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to provide financial support to victims of human trafficking who wish to return to their country of origin. [91525]

Damian Green: The Government's Assisted Voluntary Returns for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM) programme is available to non-European economic area (EEA) victims of trafficking in the UK. This programme is run in partnership with the Choices service of Refugee Action. The AVRIM scheme can provide support in acquiring travel documentation, a flight to their country of origin and onward domestic transport, and airport assistance at departure and arrival airports. In some cases, Choices will arrange referral to appropriate partners in the country of origin. Victims may also be eligible for reintegration assistance of up to £1,000.

The Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP), also run in partnership with Choices, offers assistance to eligible non-EEA victims who have raised trafficking as part of an asylum claim and want to return permanently to their country of origin.

Assistance is also available under the Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC) programme where the victim is an unaccompanied child or part of a defined family unit in the UK with at least one child.

Further details can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/modernised/returns/assisted-voluntary-returns.pdf?view=Binary

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* legislation is in force to regulate and *(b)* guidance her Department issues on the regulation of the activities of private wheel clamping companies. [89587]

Lynne Featherstone: The Private Security Industry Act 2001, which regulates the activity of immobilisation of vehicles, does not apply to businesses. However, the Act requires individuals to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority in order to carry out such activity.

As announced on 17 August 2010, it is our intention to ban wheel clamping, blocking in or towing away of vehicles without lawful authority. Provisions are included in the Protection of Freedoms Bill.

Subject to parliamentary approval, it is expected the Bill will receive Royal Assent by May 2012, with the aim of bringing the proposed ban into force as soon as possible after the Bill has been passed.

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has a duty to publish a document setting out the criteria for an SIA licence, under section 7 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. The SIA's 'Get Licensed' booklet fulfils this duty, in conjunction with the SIA website, which contains guidance on the regulation of the activities of private wheel clampers. The Get Licensed booklet can be viewed at:

http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Documents/licensing/sia_get_licensed.pdf

and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Police and Crime Commissioners: Elections

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the alternative vote (AV) system is to be used in elections for Police and Crime Commissioners; which Ministers suggested use of this method; on what date the decision was taken to use AV for these elections; and if she will make a statement. [90771]

Nick Herbert: As set out in Section 57 of The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Supplementary vote will be used for Police and Crime Commissioner (PCCs) elections and not the alternative vote. This is currently the system used for the direct election of mayors, the closest existing role to PCCs; the Mayor of London already has responsibility for policing in London and is elected on this basis.

Police: Olympic Games 2012

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suspicious packages were successfully smuggled into the Olympic Park during the trials which took place in 2011. [91020]

James Brokenshire: There is a comprehensive testing and exercising regime in place for security at the Olympic Park and Village and this will continue over the coming months. However, details of security planning for the Games, including specific tests and their results, are operationally sensitive in nature and, if released into the public domain, could compromise the security of the Games.

Departmental Reports

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports her Department has commissioned but not published since May 2010; and what the title is of each such report. [77323]

Damian Green: The Home Office seeks to publish research and statistics reports when they are complete, in line with the Government's commitments to transparency in government. National Statistics are produced and released in accordance with our obligations in the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007, and the associated code of practice for Official Statistics. This is under the management of a chief statistician, who reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional matters.

Social research reports are published in line with the Government Social Research Unit publication protocol except:

(i) in the case where the Home Office Chief Scientific Adviser decides not to publish in a Home Office series, on the grounds of inadequate scientific quality following peer review;

(ii) on security grounds, where an unclassified summary document may be published with a classified version available where it is appropriate to do so; or

(iii) for operational reasons where, in some cases, the Department may decide to publish only a summary of research and allow the more detailed research to be made available separately by, for instance, allowing the contractors to publish.

The seven research reports listed in the following table were commissioned between May 2010 and 19 January 2012, but have not been published by the Home Office. The list does not include some reports commissioned in 2010 for reasons of national security, or reports for which the relevant research has not yet been completed. The table also includes details of the stage of the publication process which the unpublished reports have reached.

Table 1: Reports completed but not yet published

Report title	*Notes*
Diverting young people from the criminal justice system	Intended for publication: in peer review
Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Co-ordinators: their role and contribution	Intended for publication: in peer review
Public attitudes to youth crime and anti-social behaviour	Intended for publication: in peer review
Demand for discrimination advice	Arranging for publication
101 single non-emergency number—learning the lessons from initial roll-out	Intended for publication: in peer review
A qualitative study into the use of Financial Investigation in tackling organised crime	Intended for publication: in peer review
Increasing the voluntary and community sector's involvement in integrated offender management	Arranging for publication

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many models of mobile speed camera have been given type approval by her Department for use by police forces; how many of these can be used accurately to detect speed from inside a police vehicle when used through glass such as a windscreen; and if she will make a statement. [91166]

Nick Herbert: On the widest interpretation of "mobile", there are 43 devices that have been type approved. All can be used through glass and none of the type approvals includes a condition prohibiting such use. Type approval provides a guarantee that a device is accurate, precise, consistent and reliable.

Metal Theft

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to introduce *(a)* a nationwide requirement for scrap metal dealers to demand identification from those from whom they purchase scrap metal and *(b)* a requirement for scrap metal dealers to install closed-circuit television on their premises. [91293]

James Brokenshire: The Government are currently considering a range of legislative options to deal with the growing problem of metal theft, including a more robust licensing regime for scrap metal dealers which will include their operating standards. We will announce our proposals shortly.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Food: Waste

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 51W, on Commons food waste, what estimate the Commission has made of the monetary value of food waste generated by House of Commons food outlets in each month since April 2010; what the outcome was of its review in 2009-10 of potential waste disposal schemes; and by what means food waste is currently redistributed or disposed of. [91334]

John Thurso: In the eight-month period from April 2010 until November 2010 the cumulative cost of food waste recorded was estimated at £56,996. No record is available month-by-month for this period and no record is available of the monthly or cumulative cost for the period from December 2010 until March 2011.

Since April 2011, the estimated cost of food waste in each month has been as follows:

Month	*Estimated cost of food waste (£)*
April 2011	4,240
May 2011	4,767
June 2011	6,410
July 2011	3,258
August 2011	3,459
September 2011	4,811
October 2011	3,652
November 2011	5,970
December 2011	7,020
Total April to December 2011	43,586

In compiling the information to answer this question, it has become clear that wastage has not been consistently recorded in all areas and the above figures are likely to be understated. It is likely that the answer given on 19 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 51W, for the cost of food waste from April 2009 to March 2010 is similarly incorrect. We cannot compile wastage information retrospectively but we are taking action to capture and report this information correctly from the start of the next financial year in April 2012.

The review in 2009-10 of potential waste disposal schemes identified a preferred option of food waste composting. Food waste composting forms part of the new waste management contract, which commenced in November 2011. A food waste composting pilot for the Terrace Kitchen is due to start before the end of the 2011-12 financial year. Thereafter the scheme will be extended to the rest of the Estate.

Currently food waste is diverted from landfill and is sent to a local energy from waste facility.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bill of Rights

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 983W, on the Bill of Rights, what progress has been made on introducing a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland since 19 October 2011. [91015]

Mr Swire: Ministers and officials continue to meet human rights groups in Northern Ireland to discuss this issue. Our position remains that we want to see progress on the basis of consensus within Northern Ireland.

In my answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 983W, I stated that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), had written to NI party leaders, including the hon. lady, suggesting that work on this issue might be taken forward by the Assembly. We await responses to his suggestion.

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91078]

Mr Swire: In 2011, my Department spent a total of £169.97 to purchase three Christmas trees. There was no other expenditure on Christmas decorations.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89706]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for my Department as it is now configured are not available for the years preceding the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010. For 2010-11, the last complete financial year for which figures are available, the amounts paid by my Department and its non-departmental public bodies for: (a) non-consolidated performance payments; (b) allowances; and (c) other payments are as follows:

(a) Non-consolidated performance payments—a total of £22,200 was paid to members of the Home civil service (HCS) working in my Department in line with Ministry of Justice guidelines;

(b) Allowances—35 members of staff on secondment to my Department from the Department of Justice (NI) are paid £287 per annum by way of a revised environmental allowance (REA). A small number of staff who are in posts which require them to undertake 'on-call' duties may make a claim for an 'on-call' allowance of £20 per weekday and £35 per weekend day;

(c) Other payments—these included reward and recognition payments. During 2010-11, my Department paid a total of 39 such payments totalling £13,650. The 20 largest payments were: £750 x four; £500 x eight; £350 x four; and £300 x four.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91400]

Mr Swire: I am the Government Minister with responsibility for advocating the principles of the big society in Northern Ireland.

The big society agenda has been an item for discussion at meetings I have held with the right hon. Peter Robinson MLA, First Minister of Northern Ireland, Arlene Foster MLA, Northern Ireland Minister for Enterprise trade and Investment and Nelson McCausland MLA, Northern Ireland Minister for Social Development. I hosted the first Big Society seminar in the UK which was attended by over 60 individuals representing the community and voluntary sector in Northern Ireland, and I led a debate on the principles of the big society in the Northern Ireland Grand Committee.

I have engaged with Business in the Community on ideas for a big society venture, delivered a keynote speech on the big society to the UK Preservations Trusts annual conference in Belfast and am actively exploring the possibility of bringing a National Citizen Service pilot to Northern Ireland. I am happy to lend my support to many of the exciting big society initiatives that are taking place on the ground in Northern Ireland.

Many of the policy levers that extend the Big Society agenda in Northern Ireland are devolved and I am holding a series of meetings with Northern Ireland Ministers over the coming months in which I shall explore with them areas in which we can work together to promote this initiative.

SCOTLAND

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91080]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office spent £59.99 on the purchase of a Christmas tree for its London headquarters. No costs were incurred on other Christmas decorations.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department are engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91079]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not categorise staff as back office or frontline; an organisational breakdown of staff is available through the Office's website at the following link:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/14464.html

Poverty: Children

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministers in the Scottish Government and *(b)* ministerial colleagues on measures to reduce levels of child poverty in Scotland. [91449]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I are in contact with Ministers in the Scottish Government and Ministers in the UK Government on a range of issues which are relevant to reducing levels of child poverty in Scotland, as are our officials.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91401]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) and I, and our officials, are in contact with social enterprises, charities, voluntary organisations and local authorities in Scotland to discuss the big society.

I have hosted several roundtables across Scotland to discuss with local organisations what the big society means for them.

WALES

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if she will make a statement. [91108]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office purchased one Christmas tree in 2011 for £90 and decorations were purchased to the value of £12.43 to enable children from the charity Dreams and Wishes to decorate the tree in Gwydyr house.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of full-time equivalent staff in her Department are engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if she will make a statement. [91107]

Mr David Jones: We do not have any staff who we consider to be frontline. The number of corporate staff as at 31 December 2011 was 13. This equates to around one in five staff.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps her Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if she will make a statement. [91404]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office does not lead on the implementation of any big society policies. However, the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I are committed to ensuring that the positive effect of the big society is felt in Wales. The Wales Office hosted a seminar in Newport last September to discuss big society implementation in Wales. Further, I now chair a quarterly Wales Office big society advisory forum to discuss big society issues, with the first meeting having taken place on 16 January. The next meeting is due in mid-April.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Origin

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department paid Atos Origin to carry out medical assessments on behalf of his Department in the last year for which figures are available. [90547]

Chris Grayling: For the period April 2010 to March 2011 the total cost paid to Atos Healthcare by the DWP to carry out medical assessments amounted to £112.8 million.

These figures cover the total cost of running the medical services contract for the last financial year. This includes not only the total numbers of medical assessments undertaken by Atos Healthcare but also costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology, other service improvements and salaries and fees paid to healthcare professionals directly by Atos Healthcare.

In addition, an element of the above costs is attributable to Telereal Trillium for accommodation necessary for the running of the medical services contract.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of medical assessments carried out by Atos Origin on behalf of his Department in each of the last three years. [90548]

Chris Grayling: For the period April 2008 to March 2009 the total cost DWP paid to Atos Healthcare to carry out medical assessments amounted to £111.8 million.

April 2009 to March 2010 total cost was £99.1 million.

April 2010 to March 2011 the total cost was £112.8 million.

These figures cover the total cost of running the medical services contract for the last three financial years. This includes not only the total numbers of medical assessments undertaken by Atos Healthcare but also costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology, other service improvements and salaries and fees paid to healthcare professionals directly by Atos Healthcare.

In addition, an element of the above costs is attributable to Telereal Trillium for accommodation necessary for the running of the medical services contract.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average salary was of *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors employed at Atos Origin medical examination centres in the latest period for which figures are available. [90549]

Chris Grayling: The salary of nurses and doctors employed at Atos Healthcare is a matter between Atos Healthcare and the individual.

This information is commercial in confidence and cannot be released as release of the information would prejudice the interests of Atos Healthcare and the Department's future dealings with Atos Healthcare or other service providers.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many doctors were employed at Atos Origin medical examination centres in the latest period for which figures are available. [90550]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare holds a medical skills database which indicates that 649 doctors are currently engaged by Atos Healthcare (as at 17 January 2012) who are trained to carry out either DLA, ESA, IIDB or VA examinations, either in a medical examination centre or in the claimant's home.

649 is a figure which includes employed and contracted doctors.

Autism Act 2009

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Autism Act 2009, what training is provided by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Jobcentre Plus and *(c)* other agencies for staff working with people with autistic spectrum disorders. [91417]

Maria Miller: A wide variety of training is provided by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and former agencies (Jobcentre Plus and Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS)) and also by Atos staff working with people with autistic spectrum disorders (ASD).

I will cover *(a)* and *(b)* together as DWP now includes the former agencies Jobcentre Plus and Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS). DWP's policy is to develop its staff in the skills required to support a range of customers and claimants, to respect their individual needs, including those related to their health conditions.

All staff have access to the "Raising the Game on Disability" seminar, which is focused on building disability knowledge and staff confidence in working with disabled people, including those with ASD.

A number of staff in DWP, including PDCS visiting officers, disability living allowance and attendance allowance decision makers undertake training specifically covering ASD, and how this affects individuals.

Jobcentre Plus personal advisers, in particular, have access to a comprehensive learning programme. The training focuses on raising awareness of the individual's personal circumstances, and also recognises that disabilities and health conditions can affect individuals in different ways.

Disability employment advisers receive additional learning appropriate to this specialist area. Their training has been designed in conjunction with specialist DWP occupational psychologists to enable advisers to provide effective support to people with particular complex needs.

All staff have access to the Hidden Impairment Toolkit, which provides practical advice and guidance on how best to support individuals, including those with ASD, into employment. This approach enables the anticipation of reasonable adjustments at appropriate stages of the individual's journey to work.

(c) Atos Healthcare carry out work capability assessments (WCAs) for DWP.

As part of their induction training, all healthcare professionals working for Atos are issued with an evidence based protocol that includes information on Autistic spectrum disorders (ASD).

ASDs are specifically covered in new entrant training for healthcare professionals who carry out WCA assessments.

All healthcare professionals are required to engage in a programme of continuing medical education. Atos, in conjunction with DWP, have developed a number of training modules for ASDs to support this programme. These include a "learning set" on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and Asperger's syndrome for employed healthcare professionals and a distance learning module with accompanying DVD on Asperger's syndrome for sessional doctors.

Atos are currently developing a training product called "Learning Disability and Autistic Spectrum Disorders awareness" which is due to be issued by the end of 2012.

Bank of Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions his Department has had with the Bank of Scotland on the printing of customers' national insurance numbers on bank statements; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [91558]

Chris Grayling: There have been no recent discussions with the banking industry on the printing of customers' national insurance numbers on bank statements.

National insurance numbers are included in the information DWP provides to the banks as a payment reference so that payments can be accurately traced and customer inquiries dealt with effectively. The Department is aware that most banks use the information in the format provided to them by DWP, but ultimately the printing of the national insurance number on the customer's bank statement is the responsibility of the bank and at its discretion.

Council Tax Benefits

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total sum paid out in council tax benefit was to *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* adults of working age in each local authority in England in 2010-11. [91481]

Steve Webb: The information has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department are engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91083]

Chris Grayling: The Department is currently engaged in a transformation of its Corporate Centre and Operational functions.

The planned staffing position for 31 March 2012 has been used to provide an estimate of the numbers and proportions of staff who are engaged in delivering frontline and corporate or back office services. These plans should be relatively stable but are subject to review.

On this basis it is estimated the Department will have around 78,500 (88%) full-time equivalent staff engaged in delivering frontline services and around 10,400 (12%) engaged in delivering corporate and back office services.

In addition the Department hosts a shared services function of around 1,350 which provides payroll and employee services to multiple Departments.

The Department categorises 'front-line' staff as operational staff serving external customers and other staff directly supporting these functions.

Disability Living Allowance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with *(a)* Parkinson's disease and *(b)* multiple sclerosis declared fit for work appealed against that decision in the latest period for which figures are available. [90923]

Chris Grayling: Of all employment and support allowance (ESA) claims starting between October 2008 and August 2010, 150 claimants whose main health condition is recorded as Parkinson's disease were assessed to be fit for work and subsequently appealed this decision. The equivalent figure for multiple sclerosis claims is 450.

While data on fit for work decisions are available for claims that started between October 2008 and February 2011, appeals data are only available for claims starting between October 2008 and August 2010. Due to the time taken to submit, administer and hear appeals it is likely there are appeals currently in progress, so the figures provided may change when newer data becomes available.

The Department regularly publishes data on ESA and the work capability assessment, which can be found on the departmental website here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

This information is taken from administrative data held by the Department, assessment data provided by Atos Healthcare and appeals data from Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service.

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Employment and Support Allowance: Cancer

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will allow people who are receiving oral and non-oral chemotherapy to receive employment and support allowance without undergoing an assessment; and if he will make a statement. [91482]

Chris Grayling: As part of his second independent review of the WCA Professor Malcolm Harrington asked Macmillan Cancer Support (Macmillan) to look in detail at how the WCA assesses people with cancer and to provide him with recommendations for further improvements.

Macmillan provided compelling evidence that the current provision for individuals undergoing cancer treatment should be changed. They also suggested that all individuals receiving oral chemotherapy and certain types of radiotherapy are placed in the support group.

The Department accepted there is a need for change. However, we know that cancer and cancer treatment can affect individuals differently. The Macmillan evidence shows this, and it shows some people want to work during treatment and are capable of doing so.

The Department has brought forward proposals based on this evidence which would increase the number of people provided with unconditional support (an expected movement of around 10% from the work-related activity group to the support group) and reduce the number of face-to-face assessments.

We are now consulting on our proposals, particularly seeking the wider views of specialists and cancer sufferers themselves. The consultation lasts until 9 March 2012.

Employment Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider permitting Work programme clients with specified needs to choose their provider with assistance from their Jobcentre Plus adviser instead of being referred through the lottery. [91483]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme has been designed to help people with a wide variety of needs. Individuals are randomly allocated to Work providers to ensure that each provider has an equal share of participants, and provide a firm basis for drawing relative performance judgments. Better performing providers will have more claimants allocated to them. For this reason, it is not possible for claimants to pick their Work programme provider or move to another, after commencing the Work programme.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Work Clubs in *(a)* Walsall South constituency, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* the UK. [91663]

Chris Grayling: The Government continues to support the creation and development of Work Clubs that offer local people the support they need, tailored to the local economy. Work Clubs build on the foundations of the existing network of community-based support for unemployed people. The Department does not systematically collect data on Work Club performance.

There is an online service for Work Club organisers, established by the Second Church Estates Commissioner, my hon. Friend the Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry), which offers opportunities to share best practice and supports the creation, development and improved delivery of this locally-led initiative.

Employment Schemes: Voluntary Organisations

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on voluntary sector providers' ability to contract in the Work programme of the administrative requirements involved; and if he will make a statement. [91484]

Chris Grayling: The Department assessed all tenders for the Work programme against the published evaluation criteria, based both on quality and financial aspects of the tenders.

The Employment Related Support Services Framework, from which the mini competition for Work programme contracts was run, is a more efficient and responsive tool with the potential to create administrative savings. It has simplified and significantly reduced the time and cost involved for delivery partners, for example by cutting out the duplication of effort created by participation in a profusion of separate procurement competitions.

A full independent evaluation has been commissioned to conclude in 2014.

Employment Schemes: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Work programme job outcomes resulted from placement on apprenticeships in the West Midlands in the latest period for which figures are available. [91435]

Chris Grayling: The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority and official statistics on Work programme job outcomes will be released from autumn 2012. The exact details of what we will publish has still to be decided as it is dependant on the availability and quality of the data.

Employment: Barking and Dagenham

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged 18 to 24 in Barking and Dagenham were placed in employment by Jobcentre Plus in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010. [91114]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Jobcentre Plus staff and *(b)* other staff in his Department with public-facing roles have completed ASIST training in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [91117]

Chris Grayling: The Department is able to provide the following information in the table.

Number of Jobcentre Plus senior work psychologists and work psychologists who have completed ASIST training in the years 2009-11

	Number of senior work psychologists and work psychologists (actual)
2009	16
2010	19
2011	14

Source:
Accredited Jobcentre Plus ASIST Trainer

Pensioners: Council Tax Benefits

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of all adults potentially eligible for council tax benefit are pensioners in each local authority in England. [91480]

Steve Webb: Estimates of the population entitled to council tax benefit are not available at a local authority level due to insufficient sample size. Estimates are available for Great Britain from the Income-related Benefits Estimates of Take-up report. The report produces estimates of take-up of council tax benefit by family type. The latest figures cover the period 2008-09.

The report brings together information from DWP/local authority benefit records and the Family Resources Survey to provide estimates of take-up among the private household population in Great Britain. Take-up estimates are presented as robust ranges of the population who are entitled to but do not take-up council tax benefit. These ranges account for possible biases that arise in estimating take-up from the available data sources. These ranges also account for the effects of sampling variation (otherwise known as sampling error).

As the full entitled population of council tax benefit consists of both the entitled recipients (those entitled to and receiving the benefit), and the estimates of entitled non-recipients (those entitled to but not receiving the benefit), the number and proportion of this population who are pensioners is presented as a range in which it is assumed the true value lies.

As such, the number of pensioners who were entitled to council tax benefit in Great Britain, 2008-09, was between 3,950,000 and 4,490,000 (rounded to the nearest 10,000), which is equivalent to between 50% and 63% of the entire population entitled to council tax benefit.

For context, the take-up rates of pensioners in 2008-09 were lower than non-pensioners for council tax benefit. Pensioners had a take-up rate of between 56% and 64% while non-pensioners had a take-up rate of between 72% and 81%. The full take-up report can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=irb

Pensioners: Low Incomes

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who have a private pension and live in the poorest 5% of households; and if he will make a statement. [90737]

Steve Webb: The figures for the number of working-age adults who have made some private pension provision and live in the poorest 5% of households are not available. Any such statistics would be based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2009-10 Family Resources Survey (FRS). We do not consider the data for households with the very lowest reported incomes to be accurate as an indicator of living standards. Many of these households, while reporting very low incomes appear to have high spending and would not have low living standards, although they genuinely have few sources of income in the short-run.

There are a variety of reasons for reporting very low incomes. First, very fragmented incomes may be under-recorded. Secondly, some households will have transitional periods of low income when they are between possibly well paid jobs at the precise time of the survey interview, or they are self-employed and their incomes can vary greatly from year to year. Thirdly, some households may draw on savings to cope with a longer period of minimal income. Finally, some households genuinely have to cope on very low incomes, and may get into debt to maintain levels of expenditure.

We have therefore provided the information requested for working-age adults in the bottom equivalised household income quintile, that is, with equivalised household incomes in the bottom 20% of the income distribution.

In the United Kingdom in 2009-10, before housing costs, we estimate that there were approximately 700,000 working-age adults (around 11% of all working age adults) with private pension provision in the bottom income quintile. Overall, according to this source, 37% of working-age adults had some pension provision in the United Kingdom in 2009-10.

The Government want to encourage people to save for their retirement and are introducing automatic enrolment into workplace pensions. Starting from 2012 all employers beginning with the largest will be required to enrol all workers eligible for automatic enrolment into a qualifying workplace pension scheme and make a minimum contribution. We expect this to lead to 5 million to 8 million people newly saving or saving more, generating £9 billion a year more in pension saving.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2009-10 Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

2. Quintiles are income values which divide the population, when ranked by income, into five equal-sized groups. The lowest quintile describes individuals with incomes in the bottom 20% of the income distribution.

3. Adults have been classified as being of working age if they are 64 or below for men or 59 or below for women.

4. While the statistics cover individuals who are of working age, not all individuals will be working.

5. Figures have been presented on a before-housing cost and an after-housing cost basis. For before-housing costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for after-housing costs they are.

6. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

7. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.

8. Numbers of working-age adults have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

9. Proportions of working-age adults in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Personal Independence Payment: Mental Illness

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has carried out an impact assessment on the effects of introducing the personal independence payment on people with mental health disorders; and if he will make a statement. [91438]

Maria Miller: We are fully committed to enabling disabled people to have the same opportunities and choices as non-disabled people. The Government have tried to make fair choices and to protect those who are most in need. Throughout the development of Personal Independence Payment the Government have looked closely at the impact of decisions on different groups, including people with mental health disorders.

The Impact Assessment for DLA reform was last updated on 10 October 2011 and can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dla-reform-wr2011-ia.pdf

It will be updated following Royal Assent.

We are still developing the assessment and published details on the entitlement thresholds and revised assessment criteria on 16 January and started a formal 15 week consultation. As more detailed design is completed further estimates of the impact of the assessment on people receiving personal independence payment will be made. Our view is that the personal independence payment will take greater account of mental, intellectual, cognitive and sensory impairments than DLA.

Social Security Benefits

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people from *(a)* EU member states other than the UK and *(b)* non-EU countries signed on at Jobcentre Plus between (i) January and June 2011 and (ii) July and September 2011; and what proportion this represents of the total number of people signing on. [89861]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. The UK's benefit payment systems do not currently record the nationality of claimants as nationality itself is not a condition of entitlement. Therefore, it is not possible to determine the number of non-UK nationals claiming benefit at Jobcentre Plus.

DWP has recently published statistics on the nationality of benefit claimants at the point of registration for a national insurance number. These indicate that at February 2011, 371,000 (6.4%) of DWP working-age benefits claimants were non-UK nationals when they registered for their national insurance number. Of these, 25% were EU nationals, and 75% were non-EU nationals.

Further information, including breakdowns of these figures by benefit claimed, can be found in the full statistics release "Nationality at point of National Insurance number registration of DWP benefit claimants" at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2012/jan-2012/dwp005-12.shtml

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to establish a closer link between the receipt of benefits and training for work. [90879]

Chris Grayling: Further to my answer of 13 July 2011, skills conditionality was introduced in England from 1 August.

Social Security Benefits: Carlisle

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what costs were incurred by his Department in respect of *(a)* benefits and *(b)* administration in Carlisle constituency in the latest financial year for which figures are available. [89034]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) Benefit expenditure for Carlisle for 2010-11 is shown in the following table, where estimates are available.

Carlisle constituency benefit expenditure, 2010-11

	£ million
Attendance Allowance	9.7
Bereavement Benefit/Widow's Benefit	0.9
Carer's Allowance	2.2
Disability Living Allowance	19.5
Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance	11.1

Carlisle constituency benefit expenditure, 2010-11

	£ million
Income Support	11.0
Jobseeker's Allowance	5.4
Pension Credit	10.1
State Pension	102.7
Winter Fuel Payments	4.2
Employment and Support Allowance	4.0
Total	180.8

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest 100,000.
Source:
DWP Statistical and Accounting Data

(b) The cost of administering benefits for Carlisle residents is not available.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91405]

Chris Grayling: The DWP continues to support the principle of enabling people to come together to improve their own lives.

To maximise our support for a big society approach the DWP has implemented more freedoms for jobcentres to move away from a one-size fits-all approach and towards a more flexible business model which is tailored to meet the community that it serves. Jobcentre Plus, in partnership with colleges, training providers and employers, has a key role to play in influencing the provision offered locally to best meet the needs of local employers and people on benefits.

A series of specific measures are being currently delivered, for benefit claimants, which reflect this approach. This includes Enterprise Clubs, which help people make the most of local knowledge and resources to support unemployed people who are interested in self employment; local Work Clubs to enable individuals to take responsibility for planning their own journey back into work; and Work Together, which helps claimants develop work skills through volunteering, with opportunities provided by local charities and voluntary organisations. The availability of these measures varies across the country according to local circumstances and needs.

Further support to local communities is provided through the design of our national Work programme. This encourages providers to build support with voluntary and other local organisations to ensure that it meets the needs of the individual and local communities.

In parallel, the Department's support to the private sector's commitment to big society remains strong. For example, we work closely with the National Apprenticeship Service on our engagement with national employers and the opportunities for all young people including graduate schemes.

Universal Credit

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of local authority housing benefit staff who will be required to assist in the delivery of universal credit. [91436]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will be delivered by a single entity which will be drawn from the best operational units of Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs and will draw upon local authority expertise. Local authorities will continue to be responsible for the new form of council tax rebate and other essential services, such as housing and social care.

The universal credit programme team are currently engaging with the Local Government Association and the local authorities associations to develop proposals for how local authorities will fit into the delivery model for universal credit. We have also formed a Transition Working Group made up of representatives from local authorities to advise the programme of the impacts of introducing universal credit on them. We are also undertaking an extensive programme of day-long visits to individual authorities to hear about current practice, gather views and suggestions and discuss the future role of local authorities under universal credit.

In the short-term, local authority benefit staff will play a crucial role in implementing these reforms, as housing benefit is such a key element of the system. It is also expected that local authorities will continue to have an important role in delivery of welfare benefits services including new responsibilities such as the discretionary elements of a reformed Social Fund.

In the longer-term, we will need to reflect on the implementation period before making decisions on the final delivery model for universal credit and ultimately local authorities' role within it. We appreciate that this creates uncertainty for local authorities, but it is important that we press ahead, because this is the only way to make the system simpler and fairer for the people we all want to help. We are involving local authority staff in a series of workshops looking at the options for the delivery model, both for 2013 and beyond.

The detail of these reforms is still being worked out, so we cannot say yet exactly how they will impact on local authority Housing Benefit staff, but we will rely on local authorities' expertise and frontline knowledge to make these reforms work.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the eligibility rules for free school meals following introduction of universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [91437]

Chris Grayling: Defining entitlement to certain passported benefits is the responsibility of other Government Departments and devolved Administrations.

The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) has been commissioned to carry out an independent review on passported benefits on behalf of the Government. This review is nearing completion and the Committee has been asked to report by the end of January 2012. The Department will publish the final report alongside its response by the end of April.

Free school meals are the responsibility of the Department for Education, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and Northern Ireland. In England, the Department for Education is already considering the options for new eligibility criteria and working with a number of stakeholders. Department of Education

Ministers will consult on free school meal eligibility proposals in 2012, ahead of the introduction of universal credit from October 2013.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it is his intention to start to take new claims for universal credit from October 2013; and if he will make a statement. [91485]

Chris Grayling: The universal credit migration approach published on 1 November set out how DWP will start to take new claims to universal credit from October 2013 and that new claims to the current benefits and credits will gradually be phased out. Work continues with HMRC and local authorities to understand the precise detail of how this will work, but this approach will ensure that universal credit is phased in safely from October 2013, minimising the risk to claimants. Even once agreed, the DWP will keep the approach under regular review as it recognises that this needs to be flexible enough the respond to national and local circumstances as they change in the years before the migration to universal credit is concluded in 2017.

Work Capability Assessments

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 19 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, what the percentage turnover of Atos-approved healthcare professionals was in each region in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011. [90330]

Chris Grayling: The percentage turnover of Atos-approved health care professionals was in

(a) 2008—Data not held for this period

(b) 2009—Data not held for this period

(c) 2010 and *(d)* 2011

For both of the above years the data are held, however the information is commercial in confidence. It cannot be released as release of the information would prejudice the interests of Atos Healthcare and the Department's future dealings with Atos Healthcare or other service providers.

Work Programme

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employer contracts his Department has made in relation to the Work programme since its inception. [91408]

Chris Grayling: The DWP do not have contracts with employers in relation to the Work programme.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of full-time equivalent staff in the Law Officers' Departments engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91109]

The Solicitor-General: The following table contains details on the number and proportion of staff who were in post as at 31 December 2011, which each of the Law Officers' Departments defines as frontline or corporate/back office staff.

Law Officers' Department: Staff in post (full-time equivalent)

	Frontline		*Corporate/back office*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Treasury Solicitors Office	808	85	139	15
Attorney-General's Office	32	86.5	5	13.5
HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	23	60	15.5	40
Crown Prosecution Service	6,758	94.3	405	5.7
Serious Fraud Office	246	81	55	19

TRANSPORT

A3: Hampshire

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answers of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 467W, on A3, and 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 176W, on A3: Hampshire, what assessment she has made of *(a)* traffic levels and *(b)* noise on the A3 between Liphook and Petersfield (i) before and (ii) following the opening of the Hindhead Tunnel; what measurements of traffic levels have been made since the opening of the tunnel; and how the measurements compare to the pre-opening projection of traffic increase. [91580]

Mike Penning: As indicated in the answer given on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 178W, the section of the A3 between Liphook and Petersfield is outside the area of scope for the A3 Hindhead project. Noise assessments were not made prior to scheme start because the increase in traffic flows are forecast to be less than 10%. Changes in traffic flows of less than 10% will generate noise increases of less than 1dB(A)—the limit to which change in traffic noise can be detected by the human ear.

Apprentices

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding her Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in her Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding she plans to allocate in 2012-13. [89139]

Norman Baker: The amount of funding the Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships is:

(a) £28,592

(b) £8,604

The amount of funding the Department currently plans to allocate in 2012-13 is:

(c) £18,000

Consultants

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2011, *Official Report,* columns 411-12W, on departmental consultants, how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* franchised train operators have spent on each consultant or consultancy for the (i) Thameslink Programme, (ii) Thameslink Rolling Stock Procurement and (iii) Intercity Express Programme since the start of each programme; and how much her Department has budgeted for such consultancy in the remainder of the comprehensive spending review period; [88948]

(2) what expenditure her Department has incurred on *(a)* external consultants and *(b)* legal advice, including costs incurred by franchised train operators, in relation to the (i) Thameslink rolling stock and (ii) Intercity Express programmes. [89125]

Mrs Villiers: The information requested can be found in the following tables. I have since issued a ministerial correction to my answer of 23 November 2011, on 23 January 2012, *Official Report,* columns 1-4MC.

Thameslink Rolling Stock Project

£ million

	Costs incurred to May 2010	*Cost incurred June 2010 to September 2011*	*October 2011 to March 2012 forecast*
Arup	4.0	1.7	0.5
Freshfields	6.6	1.9	1.3
PWC	2.5	0.9	0.6
Interfleet	1.5	0.1	0
Booz	0.5	0.3	0.1
Total	15.1	4.9	2.5

Thameslink Programme

£ million

	Costs incurred to May 2010	*Cost incurred June 2010 to September 2011*	*October 2011 to March 2012 forecast*
Atkins	0.5	0.1	0.1
EC Harris	0.2	0.1	0.25
SDG	0	0.1	0.03
Nichols	1.4	0.3	0.04
Bovis Lend Lease Consulting	0.7	0.4	0.09
Eversheds	0.07	0.01	0
Willis	0.036	0.004	0.01
Total	2.906	1.014	0.52

IEP Programme

£ million

	Costs incurred to May 2010	*Cost incurred June 2010 to September 2011*	*October 2011 to March 2012 forecast*
Barkers HR Advertising	0.016	0	0
Capita Resourcing	0.4	0.008	0
Clifford Chance	0.002	0	0
Congress Centre	0.012	0	0
Ernst and Young	0.2	0	0
First Class Partnership	0.006	0	0
Freshfields	5.6	1.0	1.1
Jim Standen Associates	0.01	0	0
Manpower	0	0.13	0.25
Mott MacDonald	11.8	0.48	0.70
MWB Business Exchange	0.002	0	0
Nichols	3.1	0.09	0.02
PWC	2.5	0.16	0.8
QCs	0	0.01	0.01
Reed Employment	0.06	0.03	0
SDG	1.2	0.13	0
Willis	0.01	0.005	0.009
Total	24.91	2.04	2.88

Detailed spending plans for years beyond the financial year 2011-12 have not yet been agreed.

Consultancy costs incurred by franchised train operators are a matter for themselves and not the Department.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2011, *Official Report,* columns 411-12W, on departmental consultants, how many hours of work Mott MacDonald has invoiced for consultancy on the Intercity Express Programme. [88949]

Mrs Villiers: Mott MacDonald has invoiced the Department for around 112,000 hours of consultancy work on the Intercity Express Programme since its inception in 2005-06.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of full-time equivalent staff in her Department are engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if she will make a statement. [91105]

Norman Baker: On 31 December 2011 there were 16,807 full-time equivalent staff working in the Department for Transport. Of these 12,673 were engaged in delivering frontline services. This represents 75% of the total. 4,134 were engaged in delivering corporate or back office services. This represents 25% of the total.

In the central Department (DFTc) there were 1,655 full-time equivalent staff. Of these 327 were engaged in delivering frontline services, representing 20% of the total. 1,327 were engaged in delivering corporate or back office services and this represents 80% of the total.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has considered introducing any pilot programmes in advance of the proposed centralisation of Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency services. [90633]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* Decisions about centralisation have not yet been taken. If the proposals are taken forward following the outcome of the public consultation, the DVLA will then consider how best to implement the changes. This could include the use of pilot programmes.

Network Rail

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Network Rail and station operators on delays to station improvement works. [91345]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), and officials have meetings with both Network Rail and train operators on a regular basis at which a range of issues are discussed. These can include progress on various station improvement works and, where applicable, the steps being taken by the delivery agent to address any programme delays.

Railways: Fares

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what proportion regulated rail fares will increase in the remaining years of the comprehensive spending review period. [90627]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* Details of planned changes to regulated rail fares are set out in the spending review.

Railways: Freight

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what proportion of the use of the Trans Pennine Line was used for haulage in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [89985]

(2) what proportion of the use of the West Coast Main Line was used for haulage in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [89986]

Mrs Villiers: The Department does not hold this information. It is a matter for Network Rail.

Railways: Scotland

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the cost of new sleeper carriages for the Caledonian Sleeper service will fall beyond the comprehensive spending review period. [90631]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* The Caledonian Sleeper service is a devolved matter for Transport Scotland.

Southern: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse will be of new carriages for the Southern rail network in each of the remaining years of the comprehensive spending review period. [90628]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* The cost to the public purse for the new carriages is forecast to be circa £89 million. In 2011-12 this is up to £84.5 million with the remainder spread over the spending review period.

Southern Railway will be conducting a financing competition for the new trains which is expected to complete in financial year 2012-13.

TREASURY

National Insurance Contributions

18. **Mr Bailey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of jobs supported by the National Insurance Contributions holiday for new companies. [91209]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has received around 12,000 successful applications for the NICs holiday scheme (to 19 January 2012). In advance of year end returns, we estimate that 40,000 jobs have been supported in total.

Credit: Small Businesses

19. **Guto Bebb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to increase the availability of credit to small businesses. [91210]

24. **Jessica Lee:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to increase the availability of credit to small businesses. [91215]

25. **Mr Rob Wilson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to increase the availability of credit to small businesses. [91216]

Mr Hoban: At the autumn statement the Government announced the launch of the national loan guarantee scheme which will lower the cost of loans for smaller businesses, and the extension of the Enterprise Finance

Guarantee to new lenders and a wider group of businesses. In addition, the Business Finance Partnership is making available an initial £1 billion to deliver additional finance to mid-sized companies through non-bank channels.

Economic Growth

20. **Mr MacShane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal steps he plans to take to encourage growth; and if he will make a statement. [91211]

Miss Chloe Smith: Sticking to the Government's fiscal consolidation plan is necessary to restore the public finances to sustainability and has helped to maintain low long-term interest rates.

21. **John Healey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the Office for Budget Responsibility's most recent forecast of levels of economic growth in 2012. [91212]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. In the November economic and fiscal outlook, the OBR forecast economic growth of 0.7% in 2012.

Taxation Changes: Families with Children

22. **Yvonne Fovargue:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on families with children of taxation changes coming into force in 2012-13. [91213]

Mr Gauke: This Government have taken unprecedented steps to increase the transparency of decision making, publishing detailed analysis of the impacts of individual measures in Tax Impact Notes, and presenting the overall impact of tax-benefit reforms at fiscal events.

These show that all but the top decile gain from direct tax changes, and that the Government continues to help protect the most vulnerable.

Merlin Agreement

23. **Mr Mudie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress he has made on the Merlin agreement on lending to small businesses. [91214]

Mr Hoban: In the first three quarters of last year, the Merlin banks lent £56 billion to SMEs—a 10% increase on lending this time last year. The Government have always been clear that they will use all of the tools available to ensure that the banks live up to their commitments on lending.

Biofuels: Crime

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to discourage the illegal production of biodiesel for commercial sale. [91441]

Mr Gauke: The Government are aware of several cases where producers have tried to avoid registering to pay biofuels duty. Suppliers are liable to account for the duty if they produce 2,500 litres or more and supply the oil for fuel production. Production under 2,500 litres per year is exempt from duty.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) ensure that the rules relating to this threshold are complied with through education, monitoring and targeted assurance activity. HMRC's activity resulted in the detection of 26 illicit biofuel plants in 2010-11.

HMRC have developed an e-mail template to assist members of the public in reporting cases of concern, which is available online at:

https://online.hmrc.gov.uk/shortforms/form/AAG_TAI

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91082]

Miss Chloe Smith: The HM Treasury Christmas tree and decorations were paid for by a single donation in 2011, as cuts precluded one being purchased from the Treasury's departmental budget.

We are withholding the identity of the donor as they wish to remain anonymous. We consider that it would be unfair, under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act, to reveal the name of an individual who has requested anonymity.

Climate Change Levy

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households that will be prevented from falling into fuel poverty as a result of the measures set out in his Department's Control framework for Department of Energy and Climate Change levy-funded spending. [90806]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

The Warm Home Discount scheme is managed within the levy control framework. Estimates of the impact of the scheme on fuel poverty were published within the impact assessment made on the scheme. The scheme will assist around two million low income and vulnerable households each year. The fuel poverty impacts are set out in Table 1 as follows. Estimates of fuel poverty impacts of other policies within the levy control framework are not available.

Table 1. Impact on fuel poverty of the Warm Home Discount scheme

				Metric
	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Number of fuel poor households removed	-161,000	-158,000	-169,000	-172,000
Number of households shifted into fuel poverty	73,000	71,000	67,000	74,000
Net impact on number of fuel poor households	-88,000	-87,000	-102,000	-98,000

Community Development Tax Relief

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Community Development financial institutions are accredited under the Community Investment Tax Relief Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [90743]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Currently there are 24 Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs) accredited under Community Investment Tax Relief (CITR).

The Government announced in Budget 2011 their intention to continue the scheme and to this end that they would renotify CITR to the European Commission and consult in advance of renotification on how the scheme can be made more effective.

Community Investment Tax Relief

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the Exchequer was of community investment tax relief in each year since it was introduced; what estimate he has made of such costs in each year to 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [91288]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for East Hampshire (Damian Hinds) on 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 19W.

Further to this answer, the Treasury has made no estimate of the costs of CITR for future years.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91081]

Miss Chloe Smith: In line with the Government's wider transparency agenda the Treasury's organisation chart is published at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/hmt_orgchart.pdf

This shows the number and structure of HM Treasury's full-time equivalent staff. In general, staff within the Corporate Centre group provide Treasury's corporate services, but some staff in this group also deliver frontline services and services to other Departments.

Devolution: Finance

Mr Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration his Department has given to revising the Barnett Formula; and if he will make a statement. [91168]

Danny Alexander: As set out in the Coalition programme for government, this Government's priority must be to reduce the deficit, and therefore any change to the Barnett Formula must await the stabilisation of the public finances.

Excise Duties: Gaming Machines

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the amusement industry on the effect of machine games duty on *(a)* the amusement sector and *(b)* seaside businesses. [91244]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Occupational Pensions

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the EU directive on Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision on *(a)* economic growth and *(b)* business pension provision in the UK. [90419]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

Directive 2003/41/EC on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision has had no effect on economic growth or on the provision of occupational pensions.

However, we would oppose any proposals to align pension fund capital rules with those in the Solvency II Directive, and have made it clear that any proposals must be supported by a detailed and robust assessment of their impact on growth and pension provision.

Taxation: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his most recent estimate is of the total tax revenue from Northern Ireland in the latest year for which figures are available; [91487]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the total revenue raised from Northern Ireland from *(a)* income tax at the basic rate, *(b)* income tax at the higher rate, *(c)* value added tax, *(d)* corporation tax and *(e)* national insurance in the latest year for which figures are available. [91499]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the revenue raised from Northern Ireland are unavailable for some taxes, and therefore for tax revenues in total.

No information is available at sub-UK level on revenue from value added tax.

Based on Survey of Personal Incomes data, total income tax liabilities in Northern Ireland in 2007-08 are estimated at £3.08 billion (see Table 3.11 "Income and tax, by gender, region and country" available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/table-3-11-feb2010.pdf

Within this total, it is estimated that tax liabilities due at the then starting, basic and higher rates of income tax were £0.17 billion, £2.03 billion and £0.88 billion respectively.

With regard to corporation tax, I refer the hon. Member to paragraph 4.34 (page 26) of the consultation document "Rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy", published by HM Treasury on 24 March 2011, in which estimates of the amount of corporation tax for Northern Ireland based companies have been published. The figures there exclude revenues due to the activity of Northern Ireland based branches of GB companies.

A link to the full document is given here:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/rebalancing_the_northern_ireland_economy_consultation.pdf

The total amount of national insurance contributions received from Northern Ireland in 2010-11 is estimated to be £2.1 billion.

A link to the Northern Ireland National Insurance Fund Account is given here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/ni-fund-ac-ni-1011.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has considered redeploying temporary HM Revenue and Customs staff to handle tax credit calls at the *(a)* Lillyhall, Cumbria and *(b)* Bathgate call centres; [90992]

(2) when he expects private sector companies to start work on tax credit calls at the HM Revenue and Customs call centres in Lillyhall, Cumbria and Bathgate. [90993]

Mr Gauke: HMRC regularly cross-train and redeploy very significant numbers of staff across their operations to help manage peaks in contact centre demand. HMRC envisage a continuing (and increasing) need for such flexibility in future.

Additionally and in line with a recommendation from the Accountant and Comptroller General, HMRC are about to begin small scale, short term trial to test whether—and if so how—using additional capacity from the private sector during peak periods might work and what the costs and benefits might be. The trial teams are expected to start taking their first calls in early February.

CABINET OFFICE

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91098]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office did not incur any expenditure on either Christmas trees or decorations in 2011.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr David Davis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of data loss or breaches of confidentiality occurred in his Department in 2011. [90686]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* During 2011, there were no instances of data loss or breaches of confidentiality which have required notification to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91097]

Mr Maude: As part of the commitment to making Government more transparent and accountable, Departments are required to publish structure charts every six months showing the numbers of staff within their structural groupings. Departmental structure charts can be found at:

http://data.gov.uk/organogram

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90704]

Mr Maude: Information is not held in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Cabinet Office holds information only on regulations that it has implemented.

New Businesses

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses have commenced trading in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England in the last six months. [91592]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many small businesses have commenced trading in (a) Ashfield constituency, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England in the last six months [91592].

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births within a calendar year are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. However, unfortunately these statistics are only available up to the calendar year 2010. The results for 2011 will be released on 6th December 2012.

Public Sector: Dismissal

David Morris: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to simplify the process of removing poorly performing staff in the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [90977]

Mr Maude: In the civil service, for which I have responsibility, work is being taken forward to address the management of poor performance.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Ammunition

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether WE.177 munitions have been stored at *(a)* RAF Kinloss, *(b)* RAF Lossiemouth, *(c)* RAF Leuchars and *(d)* RAF Machrihanish. [86833]

Peter Luff: Due to the length of time that WE.177 munitions have been out of service, a search of archived records is required. I will write to the hon. Member when this search is complete.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Angus Robertson:

I undertook to write to you on 10 January 2012 (Official Report, column 6W) in answer to your question about WE177 munitions.

WE177 munitions were brought into service in 1966 and were in continual service with the RAF for 32 years before being withdrawn in March 1998. My officials have completed a search of archived records and I can confirm that WE177 munitions were never permanently stored at RAF Kinloss, RAF Leuchars or RAF Lossiemouth. Relevant records are no longer held for RAF Machrihanish although aircraft specified to deploy WE177 were not permanently based at that station and therefore it is highly unlikely that the munitions would ever have been stored there.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment his Department has made of the suitability of the Joint Combat Aircraft to operate from aircraft carriers; what assessment has been made of the prospects of rectifying any design deficiencies in that aircraft for carrier operations; what contingency plans his Department is preparing in the event of the non-availability of Joint Combat Aircraft for the Future Aircraft Carriers; and if he will make a statement. [90770]

Peter Luff: The UK's commitment to the F-35C Joint Strike Fighter to meet its Joint Combat Aircraft requirement was confirmed in the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review.

As a Level one partner in the Joint Strike Fighter development programme, the UK has constant access to data from the development and test programme. We are confident that the F-35C aircraft will be able to operate successfully from aircraft carriers and that any design deficiencies discovered during development will be resolved.

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he estimates that the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers will be transferred from the manufacturers to the Royal Navy. [90882]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 12 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 421W.

Richard Drax: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the top speed will be of the aircraft carriers currently being manufactured for his Department; what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the speed of such aircraft carriers for F35 striker jets taking off in still conditions; and if he will make a statement. [91302]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 23 January 2012]:* The Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carrier will be capable of a top speed in excess of 25 knots, which is considered more than sufficient to be able to launch the F-35C and other fixed-wing aircraft regardless of wind speed conditions.

Richard Drax: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the F35 Joint Strike Fighter Concurrency Quick Look Review has concluded that the arrestor hook used to stop the F35 overshooting a carrier's landing deck once it has touched down is too close to the plane's wheels. [91303]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 23 January 2012]:* The joint strike fighter quick look review commissioned by the US Department of Defence highlighted deficiencies in the F-35C arrestor hook that had already been identified during testing in 2011. Such discoveries are common during a development programme and work is well advanced to develop the required modifications to correct this deficiency.

Animals: Euthanasia

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 725-6W, on animals: euthanasia, what behaviour falls within the definition of temperament for the horses euthanised in 2011; [91545]

(2) what procedure his Department follows for disposal of euthanised *(a)* horses and *(b)* dogs; [91530]

(3) what his Department's policy is on disposing of *(a)* horses and *(b)* dogs that have come to the end of their working life. [91531]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* The Ministry of Defence's policy is to re-home all military working dogs and horses at the end of their service life wherever practicable.

Regrettably, however, there are occasions when military working animals have to be put down humanely. This action is only ever taken as a last resort, where it is judged to be unsafe to re-home the animal because of the risk it poses to the public, or where veterinary reasons indicate that re-homing it would conflict with the animal's welfare.

Horses are put down humanely for temperamental reasons when their behaviour is judged, by a panel comprising equitation instructors and veterinary officers, to be consistently dangerous to the rider and/or public and with no reasonable prospect of remedying the dangerous behaviour with humane corrective training and re-homing is not possible.

The bodies of deceased military working dogs and horses that have been put down at the Defence Animal Centre are disposed of via a contract with Nottingham University Veterinary School. Military working animals that are put down elsewhere are disposed of by local contract in compliance with local regulations.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of personnel in each armed service have been in breach of their harmony guidelines since March 2011; what assessment he has made of the effect of Operation Ellamy on the number of such people; and if he will make a statement. [89928]

Mr Robathan: It should be noted that Harmony is defined differently by each service, so direct comparisons can be misleading. Accordingly, the information requested is shown in the following three tables, along with each service's harmony definition. Where available, figures for 2010 have been included for comparison with Operation Ellamy dates (19 March to 31 October 2011).

UK Regular Naval Service Separated Service

Personnel on the trained strength are considered to be in breach of harmony guidelines on a particular date if they have spent more than 660 days away from home during the preceding 36-month period.

Percentage of personnel in breach of Harmony guidelines

	Percentage
2010	
1 April	1.4
1 July	1.1
1 October	1.0
2011	
1 January	0.9
1 April	0.8
1 July	0.6%
1 October	0.7%

UK Regular Army Separated Service

Personnel on the trained strength are considered to be in breach of harmony in the final month of the specified reporting period if they have spent more than 415 days away from home in a 30-month period.

Percentage of personnel in breach of Harmony guidelines

	Percentage
2010	
1 April	5.6
1 July	5.4
1 October	5.4
2011	
1 January	5.0
1 April	5.2
1 July	5.0
1 October	5.2

UK Regular Royal Air Force Separated Service

Personnel on the trained strength are considered to have breached harmony guidelines if they have spent more than 280 days away from home in a 24-month period.

Percentage of personnel in breach of Harmony guidelines

	Percentage
2010	
1 April	3.0
1 July	2.8
1 October	2.7
2011	
1 January	2.6
1 April	2.7
1 July	2.8
1 October	3.0

The armed forces contribution to Operation Ellamy did not place such a burden on our manpower that individual harmony breaches were widespread. Unfortunately at a time of high operational commitment, breaches of harmony guidelines do occur but initiatives and regulators are used to help ameliorate the situation. These include flexible appointing between ranks, mobilisation of reservists, use of contractors, and regular review of the numbers of posts required for each operation.

Armed Forces: Dogs

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many dogs owned by his Department were working in the Falkland Islands in the most recent period for which figures are available; how many were euthanized in 2011; and for what reasons. [91229]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 23 January 2012]:* During 2011, there were 13 military working dogs and one mascot dog employed by the Ministry of Defence based in the Falkland Islands. During the same period three military working dogs were euthanized for veterinary medical reasons although the exact reasons are unknown.

Decisions to euthanise dogs are only taken as a last resort and in reaching these decisions both the welfare of the dog and public safety are carefully considered.

Armed Forces: Education

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the maximum annual contribution made to service personnel towards learning activities through *(a)* the Standard Learning Credits scheme and *(b)* the Advanced Learning Credits scheme. [89614]

Mr Robathan: The Standard Learning Credits scheme is valued at £175 per year. The Enhanced Learning Credits scheme offers three separate payments of £1,000 or £2,000 per year (depending on length of service accumulated) for a maximum of three years. As an incentive to complete a course of study, we require a minimum of 20% personal contribution. Given the difficult fiscal position the Government inherited, there are no plans to increase the value of either scheme.

Service leavers entering full-time higher education utilising Enhanced Learning Credits are not required to contribute towards tuition fees. Where the tuition fees exceed the sums mentioned above, the balance is met by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. In cases, therefore, where educational institutions are increasing their tuition fees, the value of the Government contribution will rise accordingly.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which training providers his Department contracts to provide the Enhanced Learning Credit Scheme. [91115]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence is not in a contractual relationship with approved providers for training. However, our commercial partner G4S, which administers the scheme on our behalf, maintains a list of approved providers. As this contains the details of approximately 900 providers the document will be placed in the Library of the House.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost was of fees paid by service leavers accessing a first full level 3 or higher education qualification under the Enhanced Learning Credit scheme in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [91120]

Mr Robathan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 304W.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made on the review of pensions for armed service personnel; and if he will make a statement. [89778]

Mr Robathan: Lord Hutton's independent Public Service Pensions Commission published its report on pensions reform in March 2011. It set out recommendations for future pension arrangements that are sustainable and affordable in the long term, fair to both the public service work force and the taxpayer and consistent with the fiscal challenges ahead, while protecting accrued rights. The Government accepted Lord Hutton's report as a basis for consultation on the various schemes it covered. Work on a new armed forces pension scheme is going forward with a view to producing outline proposals in the next few months. The armed forces (and other interested parties) will be fully consulted before a decision is made.

Armed Forces: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings if any Ministers in his Department have had with PTSD Resolution since May 2010. [91134]

Mr Robathan: Defence Ministers regularly meet representatives of charities which raise money for, and represent the interests of, current and former members of our armed forces and their families, either on a one-to-one basis or as part of wider events organised by organisations such as Confederation of Service Charities or the Ministry of Defence's Welfare Conference.

Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on the Ministry of Defence website at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/MinistersHospitalityReceived.htm

The information currently published covers May 2010 to June 2011 arid is being updated on a quarterly basis in accordance with the Government's transparency programme.

Ministers from the Ministry of Defence have had no meetings with representatives from PTSD Resolution.

Armed Forces: Secondment

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were seconded to the armed forces of each foreign government in 2011; and what the cost to his Department was of such secondments. [88313]

Mr Robathan: The MOD seconded 13 service personnel to the armed forces of foreign governments in 2011. 11 were seconded to the Saudi Arabian National Guard and two to the Bermudan Defence Force; although this reduced to one in July 2011.

There is no cost to the Department against personnel seconded to the armed forces of other governments. Their full manpower costs including salary, allowances, national insurance and pension contributions, are met by the host nation.

Armed Forces: Security

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the military will have in the provision of security for Olympic events taking place in Dorset. [91063]

Nick Harvey: The Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), announced to the House on 15 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 116-17WS, that the Ministry of Defence has been working closely with Dorset police to scope the provision of specialist support for maritime security operations in Weymouth Bay. It is currently planned for HMS Bulwark to be based there during the games, providing maritime surveillance and a temporary maritime command, control, communications and co-ordination centre. Defence will also be providing support to the police for above and below-water venue search, the capability to interdict vessels and assets for maritime logistic support.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what resources his Department will provide for bomb detection during the period of the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [91022]

Nick Harvey: The Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), announced to the House on 15 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 116-17WS, that the Ministry of Defence will increase the normal capacity of the armed forces in several specialist areas which are routinely provided to civil authorities in order to enhance their security capabilities. This includes the provision of Explosive Ordnance Disposal, military working dogs and specialist military search capability for, vehicles and buildings at Olympic venues across the UK.

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91090]

Mr Robathan: We do not permit public expenditure on Christmas trees and decorations, with the exception of expenditure which is covered by the Family Welfare Grant. This supports activities that enhance the morale of families of service personnel who are separated from their loved ones serving in operational theatres.

We have identified expenditure of £172 on Christmas trees and £428 on decorations in 2011 from this grant.

Coulport Depot

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the asset value of the Royal Armaments Depot at Coulport. [91252]

Mr Robathan: The most recent estimate of the asset value of the Royal Armaments Depot at Coulport is £133.6 million.

Defence

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's brief for the Assistant Director of Information dated October 1998 D/DAO/14/3/5. [72725]

Dr Fox: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Philip Hammond to Angus Robertson:

My predecessor undertook to write to you in answer to your parliamentary question answered on 11 October 2011 (Official Report, column 334W) requesting a copy of the brief for the Assistant Director of Information dated October 1998 D/DAO/14/3/5 to be placed in the Library of the House.

Officials have carried out an extensive search for the document you requested, totalling around 125 man-hours. This far exceeds the Parliamentary guidelines on cost limits for complying with Parliamentary Questions.

As you are aware the requested document was referenced in the Haddon-Cave inquiry report and was provided to the Inquiry in 2008. The Haddon-Cave Inquiry was, with the XV230 Board of Inquiry and Coroner's Inquest, the third major review of Nimrod Safety. MOD officials supported the Haddon-Cave Inquiry for over one year, collating and submitting documents from a large number of sources and archive sites. All safety lessons that could be identified from the documents were recorded. As you know the Department accepted responsibility for the loss of XV230 and again recorded safety critical observations and recommendations from these reviews. However, the individual documents were returned to their archive sites.

The Nimrod is now out of service and the dedicated teams of Nimrod staffs have been dispersed. Safety critical lessons from the Nimrod review which have relevance for our in-service aircraft fleets have been fully captured and are available to Departmental personnel in safety related posts. However, to relocate the individual documents from archive that supported those lessons would place a significant additional burden on departmental staff.

Consequently, while I realise this will come as a disappointment to you, the requested document could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost of administration of the *(a)* agencies and *(b)* trading funds within his responsibility. [86824]

Mr Robathan: The annual cost of administration, based on total staff costs for 2010-11 of the Ministry of Defence's current agencies given in their annual reports, is shown in the following table.

Agency	*£ million*
Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency (MDPGA)	305.675
Service Children's Education (SCE)	70.812

The costs for MOD's trading fund agencies (UK Hydrographic Office, Defence Support Group and DSTL) are not a direct cost to MOD, but rather part of the overheads that are indirectly charged to all their customers.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's planned budget is for *(a)* the Queen's diamond jubilee celebrations and *(b)* the London 2012 Olympic Games; and under what budget headings such expenditure will be made. [88568]

Nick Harvey: Funding of up to £4 million has been approved for the armed forces involvement in celebrations to mark Her Majesty the Queen's diamond jubilee. This includes the cost of the Diamond Jubilee Medal, to be awarded to all members of the armed forces meeting the eligibility criteria, and the cost of specific ceremonial events to mark this most important anniversary. Details of these events remain at the planning stage and will be announced in the coming months.

The Department is in the process of finalising the allocation of the financial resources necessary to meet Defence support requests in relation to the London 2012 Olympic Games. The final allocation of resources will not be confirmed until the outcome of the current Defence Planning Round is endorsed by Ministers.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89387]

Mr Robathan: The MOD has not issued specific advice to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of interns but if advice is sought from the Department, non-departmental public bodies are referred to 'The Common Best Practice Guide for High Quality Internships', published by the Gateways to the Professions Collaborative Forum, a copy of which can be found on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/higher-education/docs/c/11-1068-common-best-practice-code-for-quality-internships.pdf

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of his Department's sniffer dogs will return to the UK from Afghanistan for the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement; [91017]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to manage the withdrawal of sniffer dogs from Afghanistan during the period of the London 2012 Olympics. [91021]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence has been asked to provide search dogs to support the London 2012 Olympic Games and these animals will be trained during the first half of 2012 by the Defence Animal Centre. No military working dogs will be withdrawn from Afghanistan in order to support this commitment.

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany; on which dates those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90688]

Mr Robathan: This information is publicly available on the European Commission's EUR-Lex website:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90708]

Mr Robathan: The only EU directive that has not yet been implemented by the Ministry of Defence is Directive 2010/64/EU of 20 October 2010 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings. This directive must be implemented by 27 October 2013.

Ex-servicemen: Armed Forces

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel left the armed forces in each year since 2008. [91118]

Mr Robathan: The following table lists the outflow from the armed forces for each financial year since 1 April 2008. Further information can be found in the publication United Kingdom Defence Statistics 2011 in the Library of the House and at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=1&thiscontent=10&PublishTime=09:30:00&date=2011-09-28&disText=2011&from=listing&topDate=2011-09-28

Financial year	*Total outflow from the trained strength*
2008-09	15,860
2009-10	12,280
2010-11	13,950

Falkland Islands: Public Expenditure

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government has spent defending and protecting the Falkland Islands in each of the last five years. [91122]

Nick Harvey: These costs to the Chief of Joint Operations Top Level Budget which is responsible for the Falkland Islands are as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	65
2007-08	67
2008-09	70
2009-10	73
2010-11	75

The MOD's core budget is separated into seven top level budget holders (TLBs), each responsible for delivering individual military objectives. Within these TLBs, the budget is not routinely allocated to regions. To provide the level of detailed breakdown for each TLBs expenditure in relation to the Falkland Islands would incur disproportionate cost.

Gurkhas: Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria he is using to select people in Gurkha regiments for compulsory redundancy; and what his policy is on targeting a particular age range in the redundancy programme. [91318]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 23 January 2012]:* The criteria used to select individuals for redundancy are the same for all army personnel, including Gurkhas. Those eligible under the Army Redundancy programme are scored by a board and placed in an order of merit based upon the evidence contained within their annual reports. These Boards take into consideration an individual's performance, potential and wider employability.

Generally, applicants are then selected in preference to non-applicants, with the lowest scoring applicants taken first. Where there are insufficient applicants to meet the requirement the lowest scoring non-applicants are then selected for redundancy.

Eligibility for redundancy is based upon identifying areas of surplus manpower, including the Gurkhas, by rank and trade, against a future reduced size of the regular Army. Within each Arm and Service of the Army there is an optimal number of personnel at each rank, distributed over a range of lengths of service.

Any identified areas of excess are targeted for redundancy. Age is not a criterion for the selection of eligible soldiers in Tranche 2 of the Army Redundancy programme.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support for resettlement his Department plans to provide to Gurkhas being made redundant. [91319]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 23 January 2012]:* Gurkhas being made redundant will qualify for the same resettlement package as that available to all Army personnel. This includes financial related briefings covering budget and debt management, specialist housing advice, and advice on the importance of seeking medical help, including the ability to access mental health services should they feel it necessary. In addition, the UK Border Agency has agreed that Gurkhas can have their settlement applications to remain and work in the UK processed under special arrangements.

Further support is also available through the Career Transition Partnership (a partnership between the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Right Management) through training courses; career transition workshops; employment and future career advice; assistance with curriculum vitae writing and job preparation; vocational training; and a job-search/recruitment facility.

As part of the special arrangements for redundancy all Army personnel, including Gurkhas, will receive the same level of graduated resettlement time (GRT) and training to which they would have been entitled had they completed their full commission or engagement. GRT is flexible time which may be used by personnel to complete resettlement activities such as training courses, civilian work attachments and other requirements including job and house hunting.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what alternatives he considered to the deployment of the F35 Joint Strike Fighter on aircraft carriers. [90909]

Peter Luff: A number of potential solutions to the UK's requirement for a joint combat aircraft able to provide a survivable and sustainable expeditionary air capability were considered prior to the decision in 2001 to select the F-35 joint strike fighter. These alternative solutions included an Advanced Harrier, a navalised Typhoon and the F/A 18 Super Hornet.

The decision to select the F-35 joint strike fighter was reconfirmed during the 2010 strategic defence and security review.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he last met his US counterpart to discuss the progress of the F35 programme; [90910]

(2) what progress reports on the F35 programme he has received from his US counterpart in the last 12 months. [90939]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* The UK maintains close daily liaison with the US and is aware of the current status of the joint strike fighter (JSF) programme. Additionally, the UK has civilian and military personnel embedded within the JSF project office. The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), discussed JSF during his visit to the US on 5 January.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the rate of re-supply of Tomahawk after Operation Ellamy; and if he will make a statement. [90757]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* Replenishment of UK stocks of Tomahawk missiles, following the conclusion of Operation Ellamy in October, is currently under review as part of the Department's planning process. As yet no decisions have been made.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed services personnel providing security for the London 2012 Olympic Games will be given temporary accommodation in Newham. [91262]

Nick Harvey: It is currently envisaged that up to 300 service personnel, providing security for the London 2012 Olympic Games, will be accommodated in temporary accommodation in the Newham area.

Ministry of Defence Language Schools

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with their counterparts in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the proposed closure of Ministry of Defence language schools. [90567]

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has plans to close his Department's language schools; and if he will make a statement. [91343]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* The Ministry of Defence has been reviewing its arrangements for language training including examining options for closer collaboration with the Foreign Office. Responsibility for language training has been transferred to the Defence Academy, which is assessing potential future delivery models and will make recommendations in due course.

Navy: Pitcairn Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Royal Navy vessels have made a goodwill visit to the Pitcairn Islands in each of the last 10 years; [91043]

(2) whether he plans to deploy Royal Navy vessels on goodwill visits to the Pitcairn Islands. [91050]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 981W. The remoteness of Pitcairn Island is such that these visits are infrequent. The Royal Navy currently has no plans to visit the island.

Radiation Exposure

Mr Gordon Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of the finding of radiation particles at Crowhill Wood, Fife; and what steps he plans to take in this respect. [90572]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) received a paper from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency on 16 December 2011 showing radioactive concentration ratios which do not appear to be naturally occurring. We are currently seeking to establish whether Crowhill was formerly owned by the department and whether any MOD activities were undertaken at Crowhill.

Submarines

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the Royal Navy's requirement for *(a)* numbers and *(b)* types of submarines to be available for operations in the next 10 years. [90756]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* The Royal Navy's requirement for submarines was assessed during the strategic defence and security review. Over the next 10 years we plan to maintain a fleet of four Vanguard class ballistic-missile submarines delivering the strategic nuclear deterrent, and a fleet of seven nuclear attack submarines consisting of a mixture of Trafalgar class boats and the new Astute class boats which are replacing them.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to modify the MQ-9 Reaper with the new General Atomics Aeronautical Systems' trailing arm design main landing gear. [91023]

Peter Luff: General Atomics Aeronautical Systems have developed a solution for the main landing gear for both in-service MQ-9 Reapers and those that are due to enter service in the near future. We are discussing this option with the United States Air Force and considering it alongside a range of other potential modifications to the UK's Reaper systems.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which foreign aircraft personnel from 148 Battery Royal Artillery directed UK naval fire during Operation Ellamy. [91024]

Nick Harvey: US P3 Orion aircraft and Canadian CP-140 aircraft were used by UK personnel directing naval fire support from UK ships during Operation Ellamy. These personnel were trained, qualified, competent and current in directing naval fire support and had previous experience from 148 Battery Royal Artillery.

HEALTH

Accidents: Pedicabs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated in hospital for injuries resulting from accidents which occurred while they were passengers in pedicabs or rickshaws in the last three years. [90917]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not held in the format requested. The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care has advised that the data it collects would include any type of cycle or three-wheeled motor vehicle. Therefore, it is not possible to extract data for injuries sustained by passengers in pedicabs or rickshaws.

Plastic Surgery: Breasts

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support he is providing for patients who received implant surgery *(a)* privately and *(b)* on the NHS to receive a scan to determine whether their implants have ruptured or leaked. [91256]

Mr Simon Burns: Patients who received an implant from Poly Implant Prothèse as part of NHS treatment in England will be contacted and offered a consultation and, if they wish, a scan to determine whether their implants have ruptured or leaked. They will also be given the option, after discussion, with their GP or with the surgical team that carried out the original operation, of having the implants removed and replaced, whether or not there is evidence that the implants have ruptured.

We have made it clear that we expect to private providers of cosmetic surgery to make the same provision, without cost, for their patients. A number of organisations have already announced that they will do so and we expect the remainder to follow suit. For any patient whose original provider has gone out of business, or which refuses to meet its moral and legal obligations, the NHS as provider of last resort will offer a consultation, a scan if desired, and removal (but not replacement) of the implants.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provided to GPs on the treatment of patients who express concern about implants. [91257]

Mr Simon Burns: The Chief Medical Officer, Dame Sally Davies, wrote to all general practitioners (GPs) in England on 6 January summarising the conclusions and advice of Sir Bruce Keogh's expert group on the breast implants made by Poly Implant Prothèse. More detailed guidance to GPs and specialists is included at Annex E of the expert group report, which was referenced in the letter.

Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

Business Interests

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many senior civil servants in his Department left to take up jobs in the *(a)* for-profit and *(b)* not-for-profit healthcare sector in the last two years. [91044]

Mr Simon Burns: Members of the senior civil service (SCS) are subject to the rules of the Civil Service Management Code (section 4.3) on their taking up of outside appointments. This involves applications to ask for permission to take up the appointments and confirmation of any restrictions involved.

During the last two years (to 31 December 2011) the Department received applications from 24 members of the SCS wanting to take up appointments in the health care sector outside the Department. Of the potential employers, nine applications were for-profit organisations and 17 were non-profit organisations. Two individuals applied for permission to join both profit and non-profit health-related organisations.

In all cases, approval was granted but the Department cannot confirm that the individuals took up the appointment. The Department does not keep records of where its former staff gain employment once they have left the organisation.

Care Quality Commission

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical staff in each speciality work for the Care Quality Commission. [91378]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has provided the following information:

The CQC employs a number of National Professional Advisors from a variety of specialties who support both policy and operational regulatory activity. These include five doctors from various specialties, including surgery, general medicine, psychiatry, and general practice, as well a nurse/midwifery expert, a dentist, a social work expert, and an expert in ambulance services.

The CQC has some specific responsibilities in relation to Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (IRMER) and Controlled Drugs (Supervision of Management and Use) Regulations 2006, where it both employs and has associate clinical experts to deliver these responsibilities. For this work, the CQC currently has approximately 26 staff in post hired for their pharmaceutical background and approximately three full-time equivalent IRMER inspectors in post who have clinical backgrounds as a requirement for these roles.

The CQC uses professional experts in its thematic reviews including its dignity and nutrition inspections (DANI) and learning disability inspections. These experts are practising clinicians supporting the inspector. The experts are not CQC employees but are external experts who are selected on the basis of their own up-to-date practice and current expertise. Each DANI inspection had a frontline practising nurse in the inspection team.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average *(a)* time taken and *(b)* cost was of training an inspector at the Care Quality Commission in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [91379]

Mr Simon Burns: As the independent regulator for health and adult social care, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is responsible for the appropriate training for its staff and assessing and ensuring the quality of its inspection and monitoring of specific providers on a day-to-day basis.

The following information has been provided by the CQC:

The average time to train an inspector or assessor:

(1) 2009-10—11 days. This comprised of 6.5 days in workshops and 4.5 days e-learning.

(2) 2010-11—20 days. This comprised of 17.5 days in workshops and 2.5 days e-learning.

The average cost of training an inspector or assessor per year:

(1) 2009-10. Workshop training cost £390 per individual and the e-learning cost £60 per individual. This would bring the average cost per individual to £450 for 2009-10.

(2) 2010-11. Workshop training cost £810 per individual and the e-learning cost £183 per individual. This would bring the average cost per individual to £993 for 2010-11.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many inspections were carried out by the Care Quality Commission in respect of *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* care homes which involved on-site visits in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; [91380]

(2) how many routine hospital inspections were carried out by the Care Quality Commission in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how many such inspections involved a site visit by an inspector with a clinical qualification. [91450]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England and is responsible for developing and consulting on its methodology for assessing whether providers are meeting the registration requirements under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

The CQC took over the regulation of health and adult social care under the Care Standards Act 2000. From April 2009, NHS providers were registered with the CQC against a single registration requirement relating to cleanliness and infection control.

From 1 April 2010 NHS providers were registered with CQC against the full set of registration requirements under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

From 1 October 2010,. independent health care providers and adult social care providers came into the new regulatory framework and were registered under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

The CQC has provided the following information:

1. Hospital inspections:

(a) independent sector providers

	Independent healthcare inspections	*Independent hospital inspections*	*Independent hospital inspections including a site visit*
2009-10	884	831	831
2010-11	378	260	256

Note:

The table shows: inspections of independent hospitals under the Care Standards Act 2000 for the period 1 April 2009-30 September 2010; and reviews of compliance undertaken for acute independent sector hospitals under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 from October 2010-March 2011.

(b) NHS providers

	2009-10
NHS healthcare inspections	[1]276
Healthcare associated infection inspections of hospitals including a site visit[2]	356
Core standards assessments including a site visit[3]	84

[1] These reviews involved hospitals and other national health service organisations and may have included more than one visit.

[2] The figures include the CQC's healthcare associated infection inspection programme under the Health and Social Care Act 2008. 356 hospitals from 166 acute trusts were inspected under the programme.

[3] The exact dates of core standards assessment inspections are not available. 84 inspections were undertaken between May and August 2009. Figures in the above analysis are based on one visit per inspection, which is a minimum figure. The actual number of site visits will have exceeded this.

	2010-11
NHS inspections	482
NHS hospital reviews of compliance	195
NHS. hospital reviews of compliance including a site visit	174

Note:
The figures show reviews of compliance undertaken for acute hospitals under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, from April 2010-March 2011.

2. Care home inspections

	Adult social care inspections	*Care homes inspections*	*Care home inspections including a site visit*
2009-10	13,808	10,856	10,856
2010-11	16,508	5,207	5,078

Notes:
1. The table shows: completed key and random inspections of care homes under the Care Standards Act 2000 for the period 1 April 2009-30 September 2010; and reviews of compliance undertaken for care homes under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 from 1 October 2010-31 March 2011.
2. Between April 2009 and end of September 2010 for adult social care and independent healthcare, sectors are based on registration data under the Care Standards Act 2000. From October 2010 (April 2010 for NHS providers), this is based on organisation type in the CQC database under the Health and Social Care Act 2008. Small numbers of NHS and independent healthcare organisations provide social care type services under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.
3. Figures for adult social care inspections for 2009-10 do not match the CQC annual report for that period as the annual report was based on the number of reviews of compliance completed which were scheduled for the period. The figure here show all completed reviews of compliance in that period regardless of when they were scheduled.
4. Inspections of adult social care under the Care Standards Act 2000 include announced and unannounced key and random inspections.
5. The figures for the NHS do not include Ionising Radiation (medical exposure) Regulations inspections, controlled drugs inspections, OFSTED joint safeguarding inspections or mental health act visits.
6. The date against which completed reviews of compliance are counted is when we make a judgment about compliance with, the essential standards. Due to the challenge processes available to providers in the publication process this may be up to three months before the review of compliance is published and can be marked as 'completed'. Figures from more recent months (late 2011) are therefore subject to change. The aggregate figures almost always rise.

Information on how many planned reviews involved an inspector with a clinical qualification is not held centrally by the CQC. The CQC has advised that to gather this data would incur disproportionate cost.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* start, *(b)* completion or expected completion date and *(c)* subject is of each investigation being conducted by the Care Quality Commission. [91439]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England. Section 48 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 Act enables the CQC to look into actual or potential serious systematic failings within an organisation, without being limited to the essential standards, which the CQC routinely assesses organisations against.

The following information has been supplied by the CQC:

The CQC has carried out the following investigations under section 48 of the 2008 Act:

1. Take Care Now

Start date: May 2009

Publication date: July 2010

Subject: The CQC investigated out-of-hours services provided by Take Care Now, following a number of cases in which patients suffered harm. The CQC had been asked to review the out-of-hours arrangements in relation to these specific cases and generally, in order to be assured that all lessons have been identified and appropriate action taken.

2. West London Mental Health NHS Trust

Start date: March 2008 (under the Healthcare Commission)

Publication date: July 2009

Subject: The investigation focused on the systems that the trust had in place to ensure the safety of patients, and the quality of the services provided by the trust, covering the period from April 2005 to the end of 2007.

3. Devon Partnership NHS Trust

Start date: May 2009

Publication date: June 2010

Subject: At request of trust. The investigation focused on the provision of older people's mental health services at all units across Devon.

4. Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust

Start date: June 2011

Publication date: October 2011

Subject: The CQC investigated the systems and procedures that are in place to ensure that people are protected against the risk of inappropriate or unsafe care and treatment.

5. Pilgrim Hospital, United Lincolnshire NHS Trust

Start date: June 2011

Publication date: November 2011

Subject: The CQC investigated the systems and procedures that are in place to ensure that people are protected against the risk of inappropriate or unsafe care and treatment.

6. University Hospitals Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust

Start date: January 2012

Expected completion date: eight to 14 weeks likely April/May 2012

Subject: The CQC will be investigating the trust's emergency care pathway and looking to see if there are any problems with the services a patient uses on that pathway and, if there are, to see if these are confined to those services or whether they reflect broader problems with trust processes and procedures.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the board minutes relating to the decision by the Care Quality Commission to abolish *(a)* its national investigation team, *(b)* its health care associated infection team and *(c)* a whistleblower telephone line. [91440]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The decision to move to a new field force model for the CQC inspectors included the abolition of the CQC national investigations team and health care associated infection teams. This was discussed in a private meeting of the CQC board on 9 December 2009.

The CQC has provided a copy of the relevant part of the minutes of that meeting, which has been placed in the Library.

Whistleblowing calls have always been and continue to be handled through the CQC's national customer service centre telephone line. Anyone wishing to raise concerns about a provider, should call the CQC on 03000 616161.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91073]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of departmental staff engaged in corporate services on 31 December 2011 was 401 full-time equivalent staff. This represents 17% of the permanent workforce.

Much of the work of the Department is critical to the successful operational delivery of many frontline services but it is not usual for its staff to have direct contact with patients and service users.

Doctors: Dismissal

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors have been dismissed from the NHS as a result of having been struck off by the General Medical Council (GMC) in each of the last five years; how many doctors were dismissed without having been struck off by the GMC; and how many doctors have been struck off by the GMC but redeployed within the NHS. [90987]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect these statistics.

Information about numbers of doctors struck off is held by the General Medical Council (GMC), as the independent regulator of doctors.

The Department does not collect information relating to local national health service disciplinary procedures or about the redeployment of doctors struck of by the GMC.

Drugs: Imports

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the requirement for import licences for controlled drugs for approval by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency with the anti-competitiveness provisions of article 28 of the EU treaty. [91582]

Mr Simon Burns: The United Kingdom Parallel Import Licensing (PLPI) scheme allows medicinal products authorised in other European Union member states to be marketed in the UK, provided the imported products have no therapeutic difference from equivalent UK authorised products. The PLPI scheme involves an assessment of a dossier of information relating to the product to be imported. A fee is charged to recover operating costs associated with that assessment. This scheme may include medicines containing substances that are termed controlled drugs under Home Office legislation to control substances such as cocaine and certain substances used therapeutically. Where those substances are involved, the importer will need to comply with the relevant Home Office legislation as well.

Hospitals

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* general acute, *(b)* multi-service, *(c)* short-term non-acute, *(d)* long-stay, *(e)* specialist and *(f)* community hospitals there were in England according to the most recent Estates Return Information Collection data in each financial year from 1997-98 to 2010-11. [91045]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested.

The Estates Returns Information Collection was established in 2000-01, therefore data are not available before this period. Specific data on the number of multi-service hospitals and specialist hospitals were first collected in 2001-02. The collection of specific data on the number of community hospitals began in 2006-07. These changes will mean that over time, hospitals in one category may have been moved to another category, which will affect the validity of direct comparisons year on year.

The data which are available for each year from 2000-01 are shown in the table.

The information has been supplied by the national health service and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

	Number of sites						
	General acute hospitals	*Multiservice hospitals*	*Short-term non-acute hospitals*	*Long-stay hospitals*	*Specialist hospitals*	*Community hospitals*	*Total*
2000-01	392	[1]—	390	394	[1]—	[1]—	1,176
2001-02	335	165	384	400	161	[1]—	1,445
2002-03	312	209	376	426	192	[1]—	1,515
2003-04	280	231	397	364	176	[1]—	1,448
2004-05	290	221	414	331	170	[1]—	1,426
2005-06	277	237	413	343	168	[1]—	1,438
2006-07	270	139	252	295	174	404	1,534
2007-08	258	135	229	294	161	402	1,479
2008-09	274	135	219	273	185	428	1,514

	Number of sites						
	General acute hospitals	*Multiservice hospitals*	*Short-term non-acute hospitals*	*Long-stay hospitals*	*Specialist hospitals*	*Community hospitals*	*Total*
2009-10	259	127	236	278	178	438	1,516
2010-11	257	129	237	257	176	428	1,484

[1] Data not collected.

Influenza: Vaccination

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the likely take-up rates of the influenza vaccine *(a)* among each age group, *(b)* among people with different vulnerabilities to the illness and *(c)* by geographic area in the current period; and how these figures compare to actual take-up rates among such groups 12 months ago. [91047]

Anne Milton: The Chief Medical Officer's letter of 14 March 2011 asked the national health service to plan locally to reach or exceed uptake of 75% in people aged 65 years and over; and 60% in people under 65 in clinical risk groups. Final figures on uptake for the 2011-12 flu season will be published in the spring.

Data on the uptake of seasonal flu vaccine in general practitioner patients recommended to receive the seasonal flu vaccine at strategic health authority and primary care trust level in the 2011-12 flu season, up to 31 December 2011, have already been placed in the Library and are available on the Department's website at:

http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk

A copy of the Health Protection Agency's annual influenza vaccination report for last winter, "Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake amongst GP patient groups in England 2010-11", has already been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the contribution of UK mindfulness research centres and universities in developing in the NHS mindfulness-based practice and therapies. [91279]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 12-13W, which lists research projects and research training awards directly funded by the National Institute for Health Research in the last three years relating to mindfulness-based therapies, and the institutions funded.

Mental Illness

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* emergency and *(b)* elective admissions were recorded for patients with a diagnosis of (i) psychosis and (ii) schizophrenia in each primary care trust in England in the latest year for which figures are available. [90911]

Paul Burstow: A table showing emergency and elective admissions with psychosis and with a diagnosis of schizophrenia has been placed in the Library.

I should reiterate that psychosis refers to a condition with features such as delusions and hallucinations where the underlying diagnosis can vary and is not a diagnosis in and of itself.

Mental Illness: Research

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the NHS budget was allocated to research on the *(a)* causes and *(b)* treatments of (i) schizophrenia, (ii) depression and (iii) other serious mental illness in 2011-12; and how much the NHS allocated to research on the psychological and social effects of mental illness in 2011-12. [91448]

Paul Burstow: The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 16 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 545W, which stated estimated spend by the NIHR in 2010-11 on directly-funded research relating to the causes and treatments of schizophrenia, depression and other serious mental illness, and relating to the psychological and social impact of mental illness as a proportion of total directly-funded NIHR research. Expenditure figures for 2011-12 are not yet available.

NHS: Dismissal

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to simplify the process for removing poorly performing NHS staff, including nurses, GPs and other medical doctors. [90986]

Anne Milton: Issues relating to the performance management of individual members of national health service staff are a matter for those NHS bodies that employ or contract with them.

The Department expects all NHS bodies to have robust conduct and performance management procedures in place, and to proactively manage poor performance in a manner consistent with wider employment law.

NHS: Internships

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of unpaid interns working in the NHS. [91048]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested on unpaid interns is not collected by the Department.

Pregnancy: Obesity

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance is provided to those working in NHS maternity services with regard to care for women who are obese; [91127]

(2) what proportion of births in the most recent year for which figures are available were to women who *(a)* were underweight, *(b)* had a healthy weight, *(c)* were overweight and *(d)* were obese; [91128]

(3) what advice is given by the NHS to obese women who *(a)* want to conceive and *(b)* are pregnant; [91129]

(4) what statistics his Department collects with regard to obesity in pregnancy. [91130]

Anne Milton: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issued guidance for medical and healthcare professionals on "Weight management in Pregnancy and after Childbirth" in July 2010. This guidance sets out recommendations for advising and supporting women to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and/or weight loss programmes before, during and after pregnancy.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) issued a joint guideline with Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (CMACE) for medical and healthcare professionals on "Management of women with obesity in pregnancy" in March 2010. The guideline covers interventions prior to conception, during and after pregnancy.

In addition, RCOG has issued a patient information leaflet on "Why your weight, matters during pregnancy and after birth: information for you" in December 2011 about the extra care a woman will be offered during pregnancy and how she can minimise the risks to her and her baby in the current pregnancy, and in a future pregnancy. Obese women who want to conceive or are pregnant receive advice and support from their health professional.

Local trusts have local protocols to support the management of obese pregnant women that take account of the need of these women, and the facilities and services available to them. Arrangements through maternity and neonatal networks support these mothers and their babies.

The latest available data on obesity in pregnancy were published in the 2010 CMACE report "Maternal obesity in the UK: Findings from a national project", which shows that in 2009 the prevalence of maternal obesity for England was 4.9% of women giving birth.

Prevalence statistics on women giving birth who were underweight, had a healthy weight, or were overweight are not collected centrally.

Streptococcus: Babies

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists guidelines in November 2003 on reducing the number of incidents of group B streptococcal infections in newborn babies. [90893]

Anne Milton: The UK National Screening Committee (NSC) commissioned a clinical and cost effectiveness study comparing different approaches to group B streptococcus (GBS) infection. The main conclusion was that there was considerable uncertainty on the most effective approach to preventing early onset GBS infections in neonates.

The UK NCS is currently reviewing the evidence for screening for group B streptococcus carriage in pregnant women. The committee will review the international literature and a public consultation on the results will open in spring 2012.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is in the process of reviewing and updating the Green-Top guideline published in November 2003. The update will be published in spring 2012. In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has developed a new guideline on the prevention and treatment of early-onset neonatal infection, including GBS, which is currently published for public consultation.

PRIME MINISTER

Bell Pottinger Group

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he has received from Bell Pottinger Group on behalf of the President of Uzbekistan since May 2010. [91489]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 15 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 874W.

Social Action

Mr Thomas: To ask the Prime Minister if he will set a national day to celebrate and encourage social action; and if he will make a statement. [91191]

The Prime Minister: The Government are engaging with a number of organisations to take forward the idea of a national day to celebrate social action.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 480W, on departmental written questions, what procedures his office uses to track parliamentary questions which have been unanswered for 30 days. [90919]

The Deputy Prime Minister: All parliamentary questions tabled to me are monitored by the Cabinet Office Parliamentary Branch and by my private office.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 532W, on the electoral register, whether any *(a)* Minister and *(b)* special adviser has had discussions with representatives of any US organisation that has promoted voter suppression. [90922]

Mr Harper: Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis. Information for the period April 2011 to June 2011 can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations-april-june

We have no record of a Cabinet Office Minister or special adviser during this Administration meeting or corresponding with any US organisation that has promoted voter suppression.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what timescale he has set for the completion of *(a)* pilots and *(b)* research on electoral registration commissioned by his Office; and what timescale he has set for the introduction of proposed electoral registration legislation. [90924]

Mr Harper: The statutory window for the 2011 data-matching pilots came to an end on 30 November 2011. The Electoral Commission have a statutory obligation to evaluate the pilots and report their findings by 1 March 2012. The Government are also in the process of making their own assessment of the pilots. The Government have a programme of research on electoral registration which sits alongside and supports the work to change the way in which people register to vote which will last for the length of this programme. We will introduce legislation when parliamentary time allows.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Association of Chief Police Officers and *(b)* other policing organisations on the potential effects of his plans for individual electoral registration on the size of the electoral register in areas with a high incidence of crime; [91131]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with black and minority ethnic community leaders on the potential effects of the Government's proposals for individual electoral registration on the level of registration in those groups; [91132]

(3) whether he has had discussions with members of the judiciary on the potential effects of the introduction of individual electoral registration on the number of eligible jurors. [91233]

Mr Harper: Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis. Information for the period April 2011 to June 2011 can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations-april-june

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W, on electoral register, whether he has now estimated the potential effects of individual voter registration on the number of people registered to vote in each social category. [91170]

Mr Harper: The Government have made no estimate of the potential effects of individual electoral registration (IER) on the number of people registered to vote in each social category. The Government funded research by the Electoral Commission into the state of the electoral register. This showed that people who have moved home in the last 12 months, young people, those in private rented accommodation, and certain black and ethnic minority groups were less likely to be registered. We will be carrying out further research with these under-registered groups to explore possible reasons for under-registration, views and perceptions of IER and ways in which they may be encouraged to register. These findings will be used to develop policy to tackle under-registration during the transition to individual electoral registration to ensure that as many eligible people as possible are registered to vote.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 343-4W, on electoral register, whether the range of stakeholders referred to in the answer include representatives of *(a)* the judiciary, *(b)* the police, *(c)* black and minority ethnic groups and *(d)* young people; and if he will publish the complete list of such stakeholders. [91171]

Mr Harper: The wide range of stakeholders referred to in my answer of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 343-44W, includes officials from the Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Court Service, representatives of the police, black and minority ethnic groups, and young people. There are no plans to publish such a list.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 207W, on electoral register, if he will place in the Library a copy of the evidence from local authority chief executives and electoral registration officers. [91172]

Mr Harper: A list of organisations which have responded to the White Paper consultation on individual electoral registration will be published as part of the Government response.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the percentage change in registration rates if the Government's current proposals on individual electoral registration are implemented. [91175]

Mr Harper: The Government have made no estimate of the percentage change in registration rates based on our plans to implement individual electoral registration (IER). The ambition for the transition to IER is to build a register that is both accurate and complete. The Government are investing heavily to achieve this.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what meetings he has had with *(a)* the National Union of Students, *(b)* the Youth Parliament and *(c)* other youth representatives to discuss the likely effects of the Government's proposals on individual electoral registration on levels of registration among young people; [91176]

(2) what recent meetings he has had with *(a)* Liberty, *(b)* Unlock Democracy and *(c)* the Electoral Reform Society to discuss the potential effects of the Government's proposals on individual electoral registration. [91180]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis. Information for the period April 2011 to June 2011 can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations-april-june

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 208W, on electoral register, what assessment he has made of the extent to which his Department has succeeded in making the public aware of individual electoral registration; and how he measures success in this regard. [91177]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission has a statutory responsibility to promote public awareness of electoral systems. We are working with the Commission on the plans for public awareness activity to inform the public of the move to individual electoral registration. This activity has not begun, so no assessment has been made.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 352W, on electoral register, on the basis of what calculations the Government disagreed with the Electoral Commission's forecast of the likely reduction in registration if its proposals on individual electoral registration are implemented. [91179]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 627W. The Electoral Commission have made no forecast of registration rates following individual electoral registration (IER).

In their evidence to the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee, the Commission speculated about a worst case scenario based on only those turning out to vote at elections registering to vote. The Government do not share this view. There is absolutely no evidence to suggest that this might occur.

Furthermore, we now know that Northern Ireland, which implemented IER in 2002, has a registration rate comparable to the rest of Great Britain.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister with reference to the briefing for the House of Lords debate of 12 January 2012 on electoral registration published by the Electoral Commission, what assessment he has made of the recommendation by the Commission that the Government should amend its approach to building electoral registers using individual electoral registration in 2014. [91181]

Mr Harper: The Government's response to the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee's pre-legislative scrutiny report and the White Paper consultation on individual electoral registration will be published shortly.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister with reference to the briefing for the Opposition Day debate on individual electoral registration published by the Electoral Commission, what assessment he has made of the Commission's conclusions on the potential effects of individual electoral registration on the completeness of the electoral register. [91182]

Mr Harper: The Government will very shortly be responding to the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee's report on individual electoral registration (IER) and Electoral Administration provisions, and the IER White Paper consultation. This will include the Government's response to all the recommendations that the Electoral Commission has made on our proposals to implement IER. Our response will be laid before Parliament and will be available on the Cabinet Office website.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the civic functions that are aided by a complete electoral register apart from voting. [91183]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made a formal assessment. However, a more accurate and complete register would deliver increased benefits to those who are entitled to be supplied with a copy for permitted purposes as set out in legislation. This includes those civic and other functions for which the register is used, for example, jury selection.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the recommendation by the Electoral Commissioners that electoral registration officers conduct a full canvass in 2014. [91184]

Mr Harper: The Government will very shortly be responding to the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee's report on individual electoral registration (IER) and Electoral Administration provisions, and the IER White Paper consultation. This will include responding to the Electoral Commission's recommendation that electoral registration officers conduct a full canvass in 2014. Our response will be laid before Parliament and will be available on the Cabinet Office website.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the potential effects of the introduction of individual electoral registration on registration rates in areas with a high incidence of crime. [91186]

Mr Harper: As has been the practice of previous Administrations, information relating to internal meetings is not normally disclosed.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what representations he has received in support of implementing an opt-out for electoral registration from organisations concerned with the administration of electoral registration; [91560]

(2) what assessment has been made of the potential effects of implementing an opt-out for electoral registration on the number of people registered to vote. [91561]

Mr Harper: The proposal for an opt-out for electoral registration was raised in numerous consultation responses to the individual electoral registration White Paper. The Political and Constitutional Reform Committee (PCRC) also raised this issue in their pre-legislative scrutiny report on individual electoral registration (IER). The Government's response to the PCRC report and the White Paper consultation on IER will be published shortly.

Electoral Register: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 207W, on electoral register, whether funding for the introduction of individual electoral registration will be ring-fenced. [91174]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 207W. The Political and Constitutional Reform Committee (PCRC) have recommended that we ring-fence the funding made available for the transition to individual electoral registration (IER). The Government will very shortly be responding to the PCRC report on IER.

Electoral Register: Northern Ireland

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 342W, on electoral register, what assessment he has made of the use of prize draws to improve electoral registration in Northern Ireland. [91173]

Mr Harper: No assessment has been made by the Cabinet Office of the use of prize draws to improve electoral registration in Northern Ireland. We are however learning from the experience of Northern Ireland as we develop our plans for implementing individual electoral registration (IER) in Great Britain. We will introduce a carry forward so that current electors who do not register under IER in 2014 will be able to vote at the 2015 general election. We will also not be requiring registered electors who remain at the same address to resupply personal identifiers each year. We will continue to learn from the best practices in Northern Ireland, and I myself have seen the excellent outreach they do to get attainers onto the electoral register.

EDUCATION

Academies: Governing Bodies

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on local councillors remaining on the governing bodies of schools that have been converted to academies. [89132]

Mr Gibb: The Government believes that Academy Trusts should be free to put in place the governance arrangements which they feel most appropriate for each academy for which they are responsible. The academy's articles of association, therefore, give a lot of flexibility to each Trust to shape governance arrangements as it sees fit. Local councillors can serve as any category of academy governor. The only restriction is that requirements under the Local Government and Housing Act restrict the number of local authority associated persons, including local authority employees or councillors.

Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of variations in the levels of children's subjective well-being in each *(a)* constituent part of the UK, *(b)* region and *(c)* socio-economic class. [90875]

Tim Loughton: No such assessment has been made by the Department for Education. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is developing subjective well-being measures for children and young people as part of the overall Measuring National Well-being Programme. The Department is working with the ONS to help them develop these measures.

As discussed in their consultation document published on 31 October, the Office for National Statistics are aiming to develop measures in the Measuring National Well-being Programme which can be shown and compared for countries in the UK, regions of England, and smaller geographic units (where required) and can be analysed in ways which show distribution of outcomes for individuals or households, such as between poorest and richest households or by age group or employment status.

The consultation document can be accessed via the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171766_240726.pdf

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent revised guidance his Department has issued to school inspectors on assessing *(a)* behaviour, *(b)* safety, *(c)* health and *(d)* emotional well-being of pupils; [91028]

(2) for what reasons Ofsted's framework document for school inspection in 2012 does not refer to pupil well-being. [91232]

Mr Gibb: The Department has not issued guidance to school inspectors on these matters. It is for HM chief inspector to ensure that inspectors have the necessary guidance to enable them to inspect effectively against the requirements of the school inspection framework.

Ofsted's January 2012 school inspection framework reflects the provisions in section 41 of the Education Act 2011, which focuses reporting requirements around the core areas of pupils' achievement; teaching quality; leadership; and pupils' behaviour and safety. Inspectors are also required to consider how the school meets the needs of the range of pupils and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. All these matters are relevant to pupils' well-being. The inspection framework enables aspects of well-being to be considered in an integrated way linked to the core inspection areas.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on developing policies on well-being in schools. [91029]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), meets the Prime Minister frequently to discuss a wide range of issues relating to the Department for Education, which has or shares policy responsibility for a number of the key determinants of children's well-being. These include policies designed to: raise educational attainment; tackle bullying in schools; reduce child poverty; and provide opportunities for young people to engage in personal development programmes, such as the National Citizens Service.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what account he has taken of the *(a)* Cambridge Primary Review and *(b)* Rose Review in developing policies on well-being in primary schools. [91030]

Mr Gibb: The Government are slimming down the statutory curriculum for England so that it properly reflects the body of essential knowledge in key subjects and gives schools the freedom and space they need to teach a curriculum that engages their pupils. A slimmed-down national curriculum will also free up teachers to use their professional judgement to design curricula that meet the needs of their pupils.

All recent reviews of the national curriculum have been considered in the current national curriculum review, including *(a)* the Cambridge Primary Review and *(b)* Sir Jim Rose's Review of the Primary Curriculum.

The review of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), which is a non-statutory subject for both primary and secondary schools, was launched on 21 July. The PSHE review will identify the core body of knowledge that pupils need, as well as ways to improve the quality of teaching. In addition to considering the submissions of evidence and good practice the review will also evaluate the existing research available on PSHE education and its teaching.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make an assessment of the potential of Chicago University's meta analysis of social and emotional learning programme to inform policies on children's well-being in the UK. [91133]

Mr Gibb: As part of the legal requirement on schools to take care of the well-being of their pupils, schools in England are expected to identify the needs of their pupils and provide them with pastoral care and support. This support can range from providing breakfast clubs, to ensuring pupils have a nutritious start to the day, to offering out of school activities to enrich the curriculum, or providing mentoring and peer support activities.

Schools are best placed to determine the appropriateness of alternative programmes for meeting their responsibilities.

The government's review of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education will identify the core body of knowledge that pupils need, as well as ways to improve the quality of PSHE teaching. The review will also evaluate the existing research available on PSHE education and its teaching.

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91096]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education did not incur expenditure on the purchase of Christmas trees or other Christmas decorations in 2011.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91095]

Tim Loughton: At 30 November 2011 the Department for Education had:

(a) 1,717.1 full-time equivalent staff delivering frontline services; and

(b) 916.1 full-time equivalent staff engaged in corporate or back office services.

Recruitment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many new staff at each grade were employed by his Department in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how many of those new employees, in each such year, came from jobs outside the civil service and non-departmental public bodies. [90018]

Tim Loughton: The Department has employed new staff as follows.

Grade group	*New joiners in 2009-10*	*New joiners from outside the civil service 2009-10*	*New joiners in 2010-11*	*New joiners from outside the civil service in 2010-11*
EA	48	48	1	0
EA AA SG Band 2	2	2	0	0
EA AO	3	3	0	0
EO	82	63	22	6
HEO	89	64	39	12
SEO	42	24	33	1
G7	35	15	36	0
G6	10	3	13	0
SCS	7	5	9	4
Total	318	227	153	23

Departmental Temporary Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many temporary staff have been employed by his Department in each month since May 2010; and what the *(a)* period of employment and *(b)* total cost to the public purse was in each case. [90019]

Tim Loughton: The numbers of new temporary engagements for agency staff per month for the period May 2010 to November 2011 for the Department for Education are as follows:

Month	*Number of new agency staff hired*	*Total cost of agency staff[1] (£)*
2010		
May	7	53,746.72
June	0	48,299.57
July	0	50,697.59
August	1	28,022.13
September	0	18,998.46
October	9	18,220.57
November	1	30,072.24
December	1	20,482.64
2011		
January	15	20,100.94
February	5	22,563.75
March	5	37,266.07
April	0	38,189.72
May	2	19,376.94
June	36	20,943.71
July	13	54,420.33
August	7	113,491.60
September	4	77,541.99
October	8	78,713.38
November	1	76,875.17
Total		828,023.52

[1] This figure is the monthly cost to the Department for the use of agency staff (not just new engagements).

Information on the period of each engagement and the total for each engagement is not available centrally.

Job Vacancies

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many job vacancies at each grade there were in his Department in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [90017]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education and its predecessors had 60 vacancies in the period from November 2009[1] to March 2010 and 351 vacancies in the period April 2010 to March 2011. A breakdown of these vacancies by grade is given as follows.

Grade	*Vacancies between November 2009 and March 2010[1]*	*Vacancies between April 2010 and March 2011*
EA	5	26
EO	8	83
HEO	8	99
Higher Statistical Officer	1	4
Scientific Officer	—	1
Statistical Officer	—	1
Research Officer	—	1
SEO	6	21
Senior Scientific Officer	—	2
G7	19	65
G7 Accountant	1	1
G6	12	47
SCS[2]	—	—
Total	60	351

[1] Data are only available from November 2009 when the Department moved to a new Shared Services Provider.

[2] SCS vacancies are managed differently and managed moves are quite often used to meet the business needs of the Department. No central record is held on the number of SCS vacancies; however, in the two years (2009-10 and 2010-11) there were 16 new SCS appointments, nine of which were from outside the civil service.

Education

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has assessed the potential effects of mindfulness-based practices on educational attainment. [90897]

Mr Gibb: The Department has carried out no assessment to date on the effects of mindfulness-based practices on educational attainment.

Education: Finance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many learners aged 19 years at the start of their course claimed Care to Learn in *(a)* Middlesbrough local authority, *(b)* Redcar and Cleveland local authority, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* the north east in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12 to date. [91292]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), which has operational responsibility for Care to Learn. The YPLA's Chief Executive, Peter Lauener, will write to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland directly with a breakdown of the figures requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department plans to publish *(a)* a summary and *(b)* full results of its consultation on the future of Care to Learn funding. [91333]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 January 2012]:* We are considering the results of the consultation and will set out decisions concerning future arrangements and the publication of the consultation outcomes in due course.

Education: Leeds

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions his officials have had with Leeds city council on the Leeds Education Challenge. [87059]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* Leeds Education Challenge was submitted to the Department on 15 April 2011 in response to the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), letter of 1 March 2011 asking local authorities to draw up plans for improving performance in all schools below the national floor standards.

The plan was discussed at a meeting with the local authority on 19 July and there have been a number of subsequent meetings where the plan has been referred to in discussions on identifying academy solutions for underperforming schools.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to the letter of 13 December 2011 from the hon. Member for Harrow West; and if he will make a statement. [90752]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* I replied on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), to the hon. Member on 19 January 2012.

Mindfulness

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the contribution of UK mindfulness research centres and universities in developing in schools mindfulness-based practice and therapies. [91278]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has made no assessment of this issue.

Schools: Sports

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on how many pupils in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary education took part in (i) an activity in a swimming pool, (ii) water sports, (iii) boating, (iv) go-karting, (v) horse riding and equestrian sports and (vi) adventure activity and education field studies in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [91356]

Tim Loughton: Information for 2009/10 from the PE and Sport Survey is set out in the following table. Information is no longer collected.

	Percentage provided to any	
	Primary schools	*Secondary schools*
Swimming	88	67
Outdoors & adventurous activity	70	76
Canoeing	26	37
Rowing	6	42
Sailing	7	22
Equestrian	2	13

Schools: Swindon

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils in South Swindon constituency gained Level 4 at Key Stage 2 in each of the last five years. [91139]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following table:

Achievements at the expected level[1] by pupils at the end of key stage 2 in South Swindon parliamentary constituency[2], South West region[3] and England[4]—Years: 2007-11[5]—Coverage: England[6]

Percentage of KS2 pupils achieving expected level in:	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
English					
South Swindon	81	81	82	80	83
South West	81	82	81	81	82
England	80	81	80	81	82
Maths					
South Swindon	79	82	81	80	82
South West	77	79	79	80	81
England	77	79	79	80	81
English and Maths					
South Swindon	73	75	75	73	76
South West	72	73	72	74	75
England	71	73	72	74	74

[1] Includes pupils who achieved level 4 or above. Level 4 is the expected level of achievement for pupils at the end of key stage 2.

[2] Parliamentary constituency figures are based on the postcode of the school.

[3] Regional figures are based on the region of the local authority maintaining the school.

[4] England figures are the sum of all local authority figures and match the England totals in the local authority tables of the statistical first release:
http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001047/index.shtml
These may differ to the England totals in the national tables in the statistical first release.

[5] Data are final data for all years apart from 2011 which are based on amended data.

[6] Includes LA-maintained schools and academies. Figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

Source:
National Pupil Database

South West and England figures are taken from table 23 in the statistical first release "National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England 2010/2011 (revised)", published at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001047/index.shtml

Schools: Technology

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate his Department has made of the excess costs that have been incurred by schools sold or leased IT equipment at above market prices. [89785]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not hold estimates of the excess costs that have been incurred by schools sold or leased-IT equipment at above market prices.

The Department collects a consistent financial reporting (CFR) return for all schools maintained by local authorities (LAs) at the end of each financial year. CFR does not record spending in a way that specifically identifies how much each school has spent on bought or leased IT equipment.

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to prevent schools from being sold or leased IT equipment at above market prices. [89787]

Tim Loughton: The Department have been working for some time to support schools to improve the way they buy goods and services, including IT equipment.

Schools have autonomy over their budgets, and the Department has worked and continues to work with a wide range of organisations and key stakeholders to ensure that the information available on the Department's website on best practice, guidance on leasing and clear advice on how to get the best value for money is cascaded to schools.

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate his Department has made of the number and proportion of schools that have been sold or leased IT equipment at above market prices. [89788]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not hold estimates of the excess costs that have been incurred by schools sold or leased IT equipment at above market prices.

The Department collects a Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) return for all schools maintained by local authorities (LAs) at the end of each financial year. CFR does not record spending in a way that specifically identifies how much each school has spent on bought or leased IT equipment.

Social and Emotional Learning

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on promoting social and emotional learning. [91281]

Mr Gibb: As we said in "The Importance of Teaching," the majority of the important work that schools do is not as a result of Government prescription. Good schools play a vital role as promoters of health and wellbeing in the local community and have always had good pastoral systems. We believe that good schools are better able to achieve this important role without central government promotion of social and emotional learning.

The national curriculum for England is being reviewed so that it properly reflects the body of essential knowledge in key subjects and gives schools the freedom and space they need to teach a curriculum that engages their pupils. A slimmed-down national curriculum will also free up teachers to use their professional judgement to design curricula that meet the needs of their pupils. This is consistent with the underlying principles set out in "The Importance of Teaching".

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what policies his Department is implementing as part of the Government's well-being agenda. [91282]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), is responsible for a wide-range of issues which relate to a number of the key determinants of children's well-being. These include policies designed to: raise educational attainment; tackle bullying in schools; reduce child poverty; and provide opportunities for young people to engage in personal development programmes, such as the National Citizens Service.

Teachers

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to simplify the process for removing poorly performing teachers; and whether he has considered allowing schools that remove teachers to pass such information to schools that are considering employing them in the future. [90983]

Mr Gibb: On 13 January, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), announced new arrangements for tackling underperformance. We have published an optional model policy for schools which includes procedures to use when dealing with underperforming teachers. These procedures are shorter and less complex than the current procedure and will make it possible, in some cases, for schools to dismiss incompetent teachers in about a term.

We are also consulting on a proposal to introduce a new requirement on governing bodies to share information about whether or not a teacher or head teacher has been in capability procedures when this is requested by prospective employers. This is intended to help reduce the recycling of poor performers from school to school by enabling governing bodies to make better informed decisions when making teaching appointments.

Teachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education under what procedure outstanding disciplinary cases referred to England's General Teaching Council (GTC) since August 2011 will be dealt with when the GTC is replaced by the Teaching Agency. [90816]

Mr Gibb: Cases referred to the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) since August 2011 that have not been concluded by the GTCE prior to its abolition will transfer to the Teaching Agency where they are within the scope of its regulatory arrangements. Under the new regulatory arrangements set out in the Education Act 2011, the Teaching Agency will consider only the most serious cases of misconduct. Lesser allegations will not continue to be considered at the national level.

JUSTICE

Bronzefield Prison

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Police National Computer checks the police have carried out on visitors to Bronzefield prison. [90891]

Mr Blunt: There are no records regarding police PNC checks of visitors at HMP Bronzefield and to answer the question would result in disproportionate cost by having to obtain a list of all visitors to HMP Bronzefield and for that list to be cross checked against activity logs from the PNC.

Community Orders: Per Capita Costs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost to the probation service of supervising an individual on a community order. [79249]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is currently specifying and costing activities undertaken by probation trusts.

As part of the Government's commitment to provide greater transparency, to enable the public to hold services to account and assess whether they are receiving value for money from the services we provide, NOMS will publish, in autumn 2012, three probation level input indicators, one of which is the cost per community order. This will be the average, fully-apportioned cost to probation of delivering a community order or suspended sentence order sentence to the service definition as detailed in the NOMS service specification. This will include both managing the sentence and delivering court-ordered requirements. The cost of the latter will be derived from the average number and type of requirements attached to a sentence for an offender on each tier.

Contact Orders

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for a contact order under the Children Act 1989 were made by *(a)* males and *(b)* females (i) between April 2010 and March 2011 and (ii) in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what the respective proportions were of applications from each sex. [87455]

Mr Djanogly: Information on the number and percentage of applications for a contact order under the Children Act 1989 made by males and females between April 2010 and March 2011, and for the latest period available (April to June 2011) are provided in the following table. The statistics are not available split by males and females for applications made at Family Proceedings Courts in the former period.

Statistics for private law applications in the quarter July to September 2011 are due to be published in the next edition of the report Court Statistics Quarterly, which was published on 12 January 2012 and available from the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/judicial-quarterly.htm

Number of children involved in applications for section 8 contact orders made by males and females within private law cases in England and Wales

	April 2010 to March 2011		*April to June 2011*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
County Courts and High Court				
Female	7,720	23	1,450	25
Male	25,700	75	4,220	72
Both	630	2	130	2
Unknown	80	0	50	1
Total	34,130	100	5,840	100
Family Proceedings Courts				
Female	—	—	350	18
Male	—	—	1,540	80
Both	—	—	30	2
Unknown	—	—	0	0
Total	10,630	—	1,920	100
All Courts				
Female	—	—	1,790	23
Male	—	—	5,760	74
Both	—	—	160	2
Unknown	—	—	50	1
Total	44,750	—	7,760	100

Notes:

1. The figures relate to the number of children involved in each application.
2. The figures relate to the total number of section 8 contact orders applied for within private law cases in the Family Proceedings Courts, the county courts and the High Court of England and Wales.
3. Prior to 2011, some Family Proceedings Courts submitted their data on a summary return which does not provide information on the gender of the applicant. As such, a gender breakdown has not been provided for Family Proceedings Courts in 2010-11.
4. The figures exclude applications for section 8 contact orders made within public law cases.
5. Applicants include, for example, parents, step-parents and grandparents.
6. 'Both' refers to instances where there were records for both a female and male applicant.
7. 'Unknown' refers to instances where the gender of the applicant was not recorded.
8. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore, totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source:

HMCTS FamilyMan and summary returns.

Crown Dependencies: Diamond Jubilee 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assistance his Department is giving to Crown Dependencies to mark Her Majesty the Queen's diamond jubilee. [91036]

Mr Djanogly: The Crown Dependencies are self-governing jurisdictions, and each is making its own plans to mark the diamond jubilee. No requests have been made to the Ministry of Justice for assistance in planning these events.

Consultants

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on each external consulting firm it has engaged since May 2010. [91357]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: This information has been placed in the House Library.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department are engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91146]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice delivers most of its services through its executive agencies. As these executive agency staff in local offices, prisons, courts and tribunals across England and Wales work in both public facing and back office roles, it not possible to clearly distinguish front line employees from other workers.

However, as at November 2011, out of a total of 68,255 full-time equivalent civil servants employed by the Ministry of Justice 44,325 worked in the National Offender Management Service; 19,254 worked for HM Courts and Tribunals Service; and 493 worked for The Office of the Public Guardian. These executive agencies have a primarily public service delivery role.

The remaining 4,183 staff are employed in the Ministry of Justice corporate and policy functions, including ministerial offices, finance, estates management, security, HR, shared services, legal, criminal justice policy and communications. Details about staff numbers can be found on the Ministry's website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/transparency-data/workforce-management-info.htm

Employment Tribunals

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of cases brought before employment tribunals were successful in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [90974]

(2) what the total value was of compensation payments ordered by employment tribunals in the latest period for which figures are available; [90975]

(3) what the total cost to the public purse was of employment tribunals in the latest period for which figures are available. [90976]

Mr Djanogly: The information is as follows:

(1) A claim to an employment tribunal can be made on a number of different grounds; these are known as jurisdictional complaints. The latest period for which figures are available and are published is 1 July 2011-30 September 2011. In that period, the total number of claims received was 40,300. These claims consist of some 75,500 jurisdictional complaints. In that same period, 58,700 jurisdictional complaints were disposed of. The following table provides details of the disposal of those cases.

Disposal of employment tribunal claims

	Successful at tribunal	*Dismissed at a preliminary hearing*	*Unsuccessful at hearing*	*Default judgment*	*Withdrawn*	*Acas conciliated*	*Struck out (not at hearing)*
Number of jurisdictional complaints	5,800	1,300	3,900	4,000	15,700	17,800	10,300
Percentage against total disposals	10	2	7	7	27	30	17

Note:
Figures may not add to totals because of rounding. Quarterly data is reconciled at the end of the year.

(2) The latest period for which figures are available and published are in the annual Employment Tribunals and EAT Statistics, 2010/11. Employment tribunals (ETs) do not gather details of the awards made in all cases heard but only those cases in which a compensatory award is made, i.e. claims relating to unfair dismissal and discrimination. The following table shows the number of awards made in each of the jurisdictions for which information is gathered and the maximum, median and average of the awards made.

Employment tribunal awards (£)

Jurisdiction	*Age discrimination*	*Disability discrimination*	*Race discrimination*	*Religious discrimination*	*Sex discrimination*	*Sexual orientation discrimination*	*Unfair dismissal*[1]
Max award	144,100	181,083	62,530	20,221	289,167	47,633	181,754
Median award	12,697	6,142	6,277	6.892	6,078	5,500	4,591
Average award	30,289	14,137	12,108	8,515	13,911	11,671	8,924

[1] The maximum award for compensation in unfair dismissal cases is limited on 1 February each year by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. From 1 February 2011 the limit is £68,400. However, awards can be above the maximum when they include a basic award element in addition to the compensatory element. There is no statutory cap where the dismissal is for health and safety reasons or for making a protected disclosure or in cases of discrimination.

The distribution of awards in unfair dismissal and discrimination cases is detailed in Tables 5 to 11 of the annual Employment Tribunals and EAT Statistics, 2010-11.

(3) Employment tribunals (ETs) are administered by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), which has a central operating budget. The direct element of that budget in relation to ETs was £60.9 million for 2010-11 and £59.7 million for 2011-12. These figures do not include apportioned corporate overheads. No detailed budgets have yet been agreed or finalised for future financial years.

The reduction in budget allocation between 2010-11 and 2011-12 reflects the HMCTS drive for continual efficiency improvements. It also reflected a slight decrease in workloads before the ETs. The assessment made by HMCTS is that the reduction should not lead to any lengthier period between receipt and disposal of cases.

MCTS publishes annual and quarterly statistics which cover workloads and performance against timeliness measures, including (where available) historic trends. This material is available on the Ministry of Justice website at the following internet address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/tribunals/index.htm

Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what support he is giving to the Salvation Army's Trafficking Victim Support Scheme. [91526]

Mr Blunt: Between them the Ministry of Justice and Home Office are providing the Salvation Army with £2 million funding per year to co-ordinate the provision of support services for victims of human trafficking.

The Ministry of Justice is working closely with the Salvation Army, with which it has a contract which came in to force last July, to ensure that victims of human trafficking receive the support they need.

Hunting: Prosecutions

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* proceeded against and *(c)* convicted of an offence under the provisions of the (i) Game Act 1831, (ii) Deer Act 1991, (iii) Protection of Badgers Act 1992, (iv) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (v) Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996, (vi) Animal Welfare Act 2006, (vii) Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, (viii) Hunting Act 2004 and (ix) Night Poaching Act 1828 in each year from 2005 to 2010. [91307]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons cautioned, and defendants proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for the requested offences in England and Wales from 2005 to 2010 can be viewed in the following tables.

The Ministry of Justice has not received any reports of cautions, prosecutions or convictions under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations Act 2010.

Persons[1] cautioned, and defendants[1] proceeded against and found guilty of offences under selected legislation, England and Wales, 2005-10[2]

Defendants

	2005			2006			2007		
Legislation	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Animal Welfare Act 2006[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	36	34
Deer Act 1991	3	4	3	0	1	0	0	3	1
Game Act 1831[5]	6	421	341	17	57	35	9	81	60
Hunting Act 2004	1	2	2	0	11	5	8	62	48
Night Poaching Act 1828[5]	2	36	29	2	19	14	10	21	16
Protection of Badgers Act 1992	0	39	20	0	22	7	8	30	11
Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	1	3	1	4	7	4	3	7	3
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981[5]	18	62	44	14	150	109	19	49	38

Defendants

	2008[3]			2009			2010		
Legislation	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Animal Welfare Act 2006[4]	7	1,026	784	17	1,414	1,073	15	1,413	1,081
Deer Act 1991	0	4	1	4	3	2	0	10	5
Game Act 1831[5]	17	125	110	5	163	128	15	178	135
Hunting Act 2004	4	44	33	8	92	59	11	49	36
Night Poaching Act 1828[5]	9	25	16	17	44	32	25	48	37
Protection of Badgers Act 1992	2	37	22	2	50	30	6	50	30
Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	0	6	5	2	8	5	2	6	4

Defendants

Legislation		*2008[3]*			*2009*			*2010*	
	Cautioned	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981[5]	12	41	33	15	48	33	13	41	22

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[4] The Animal Welfare Act 2006 came into effect on 8 November 2006

[5] Excludes offences that form part of a miscellaneous group that cannot be separately analysed.

Offenders: Literacy

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to help minor offenders overcome difficulties with reading and writing. [90672]

Mr Blunt: Young offenders held in the secure estate receive an individual learning plan to address their learning needs and objectives while in custody. If not already known, offenders have their literacy and numeracy skills assessed on arrival in custody. Education providers use a Hidden Disabilities Questionnaire developed by Dyslexia Action to test anyone who shows signs of having a learning difficulty and/or disability. This identifies a range of learning difficulties, allowing the education provider to direct the learner to the appropriate learning support and for further assessments if necessary.

Prison: Visits

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons have made arrangements with the police to carry out Police National Computer checks on visitors. [90892]

Mr Blunt: All prisons that hold category A prisoners have arrangements with the police to carry out PNC checks on visitors under the Approved Visitor Scheme. There is nothing to stop governors of other establishments applying for visitor information and the police will consider the lawfulness of the request. Governors can themselves access the PNC for information on prisoners.

Prisoners: Death

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many non-UK citizens have died in prison in each year from 1995. [91295]

Mr Blunt: The number of non UK citizens who have died in prison since 1995 is contained in the following table. The information is based on the self-declared nationality given by a prisoner on reception into custody.

	Deaths non-UK nationals
1995	39
1996	4
1997	7
1998	5
1999	14
2000	10
2001	11
2002	18
2003	15
2004	13
2005	14
2006	14
2007	32
2008	18
2009	10
2010[1]	23

[1] Subject to revision

Suspended Sentence Orders: Community Orders

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that public bodies imposing *(a)* community orders and *(b)* suspended sentence orders ensure that the terms and requirements of the order are understood by their recipient, including people with a learning disability; and if he will make a statement. [88622]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: There are policies and processes in place that require probation staff to explain the requirements of a community order and/or a suspended sentence order to an offender at the commencement of the order and to ensure that offenders are reminded of them throughout the sentence. Probation staff will take account of the needs of an individual offender and will adapt the style of communication given as maybe necessary.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the Big Society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91399]

Mr Djanogly: Departmental Business Plans set out clear priorities across Government, including what we are putting in place to support the growth of big society, and we continue to report publicly on progress against these priorities at:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/transparency/srp/

Within the Ministry of Justice this includes reporting progress on initiatives such as various payment by results pilots, Neighbourhood Justice Panels and alternative dispute resolution.

For example, the Ministry of Justice will collect data on payments by results to complete evaluations to determine the best way to implement payment-by- results principles. The evaluation will be published in due course.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of removing welfare benefits from the scope of legal aid on the number of successful appeals against work capability assessments. [87912]

Mr Djanogly: The impact assessments published alongside both the consultation paper and the response to consultation lay out the best estimates of the potential effects of the reform programme. However, these did not specifically consider the effects of the reform programme on the number of successful appeals against work capability assessments.

Youth Justice: Enfield

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his assessment is of the outcome of the recent HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection of youth offending work in the London borough of Enfield; and if he will make a statement. [85260]

Mr Blunt: I welcome the recent report by HM Inspectorate of Probation on youth offending work in Enfield.

This is an encouraging report showing progress in a challenging context. The Government are committed to improving the performance of all Youth Offending Teams. The Youth Justice Board has worked in partnership with Enfield to improve their performance and will continue to work with them to develop and deliver their post-inspection improvement plan.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that schools and colleges provide effective advice on apprenticeship routes for young people. [90457]

Mr Hayes: From September, all schools in England will be placed under a legal duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance. We will issue statutory guidance to schools making their responsibility absolutely clear. This will include information about apprenticeships. The National Apprenticeship Service is working with schools to inform and prepare young people for apprenticeships. And we are reforming the national curriculum and raising standards in all our schools so that young people are better prepared for further learning, training or work.

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of steps taken to encourage employers and providers to provide level 3 and higher apprenticeship programmes in addition to higher volumes of level 2 apprenticeship programmes. [90459]

Mr Hayes: The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), works with employers and providers on a day-to-day basis to encourage them to provide advanced and higher level apprenticeships and through events such as National Apprenticeship Week which runs from 6 February this year.

We have seen increases in the numbers of people starting and completing apprenticeships at all levels. Provisional data for the 2010/11 academic year show that there were 147,900 advanced level apprenticeship starts, up by around two-thirds on 2009/10 and up by around three-quarters on 2008/09, and that there were 2,100 higher apprenticeship starts, up by more than a third on 2009/10 and up from only 200 in 2008/09.

NAS has allocated £18.7 million of the Higher Apprenticeship Fund which will support the development of an initial 19,000 new higher apprenticeships in sectors including construction, advanced engineering, insurance and financial services. A second round of bidding to the fund will be announced shortly which will grow this number further. We will be assessing the impact of these projects over the coming 18 months.

Apprentices: Wiltshire

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employers in *(a)* Swindon, *(b)* Wiltshire and *(c)* England have received payments to take on their first young apprentice under the Government's incentive scheme. [90817]

Mr Hayes: The apprenticeship programme is demand led and take-up of apprenticeships by area depends on employer demand. We are therefore unable to provide estimates of the geographical distribution of those companies that will benefit from the incentive payments that the Government announced in November.

Nationally we plan to make 40,000 incentive payments available for small companies that are not currently engaged in the apprenticeships programme that take on their first apprentices aged 16 to 24. The National Apprenticeship Service is currently working up a detailed delivery plan and companies will be able to benefit by April this year.

Bankruptcy

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized businesses have filed for bankruptcy in the last 12 months in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England. [91595]

Mr Davey: Statistics covering corporate insolvencies for England and Wales are not currently available at sub-national level, or differentiated by firm size.

Business: Dismissal

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable he expects to set for the consultation on no-fault dismissal for small businesses. [91590]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), announced in November 2011 that the Government would seek evidence on the idea of introducing compensated no-fault dismissal for micro firms (i.e. firms that employ fewer than 10 staff). Officials in the Department are currently seeking views on progressing this and we will publish a formal call for evidence in due course. Decisions on whether to consult further will not be taken until the ensuing evidence has been fully assessed.

Catering: Public Consultation

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what conclusions relevant to the food and drink industry his Department has drawn from its Red Tape Challenge consultation to date. [89668]

Mr Prisk: The hospitality, food and drink theme was in the Red Tape Challenge spotlight from 6 May to 2 June 2011. The agreed deregulatory package was announced on 29 September 2011 and set out the plans to scrap or improve over 60 different rules and regulations. The full package is available at:

http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/2011/09/hospitality-food-and-drink-regulations

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what conclusions relevant to the food and drink industry his Department has drawn from its consultation on modern workplaces to date. [89669]

Mr Davey: The approach to the modern workplaces consultation was not based on business sectors and our analysis will incorporate views from a broad spectrum of business and non-business responses.

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what conclusions relevant to the food and drink industry his Department has drawn from its consultation on "A Competition Regime for Growth" to date. [89670]

Mr Davey: The Government expect to publish their response to the consultation on "A Competition Regime for Growth" shortly. Conclusions will be relevant the role of the competition authorities across all sectors of the economy.

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what responses his Department has received to its consultation entitled "A Long-Term Focus for Corporate Britain: A Call for Evidence" in relation to the food and drink industry. [89984]

Mr Davey: During the consultation entitled "A Long-Term Focus for Corporate Britain: A Call for Evidence", which closed in January 2011, the Department received a response from Tate & Lyle. No other responses from the food and drink industry were received. All of the responses to the consultation can be found on the BIS website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations/a-long-term-focus-for-corporate-britain?cat=closedawaitingresponse

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91100]

Mr Davey: In 2011 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills spent £265 plus VAT on a Christmas tree for the reception at the Department's headquarters building. No other Christmas decorations were purchased.

Copyright: Arts

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the creative industries of the proposals contained in the Government's consultation on copyright to *(a)* introduce an exception for private copying, *(b)* introduce an exception for official celebrations and *(c)* make exceptions override contractual provisions. [90775]

Mr Davey: The Government are currently seeking detailed evidence on the costs and benefits to all parties who could be affected by the proposals to modernise copyright, through public consultation. The Government have published initial impact assessments based on evidence currently available. These are published on the website of the Intellectual Property Office.

Flexible Working

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that the proposed extension of the right to request flexible working arrangements to all employees does not *(a)* adversely affect existing flexible working rights and *(b)* result in employers rejecting requests without proper consideration. [91559]

Mr Davey: On 16 May 2011 the Government published a full impact assessment on the extension to the right to request flexible working to all employees, alongside the consultation document. We will publish a revised impact assessment alongside the Government response later this year.

The impact assessment shows that we believe the extension will benefit parents and carers, who already have the right to request flexible working, as well as employees who do not currently have the right. The extension will help to change employer and employee attitudes towards flexible working and remove the perception that an employee only requests flexible working if they are less committed to the work force. Removing this stigma should increase the confidence of parents and carers to make a request, thereby increasing the number of requests.

The changes to the right to request flexible working proposed in the Modern Workplaces consultation will not reduce protections for employees. The proposal is to replace the current rigid process for considering requests with a duty on employers to consider requests reasonably and within a reasonable period of time. We will publish a statutory code of practice to explain what we mean by reasonable. Employees will still be able to appeal to an employment tribunal if they believe their employer did not consider their request for flexible working reasonably or within a reasonable period of time. We have no intention of changing the existing eight business reasons that an employer needs to give if they refuse a request for flexible working.

We believe that this change will enable employers to consider requests in a less bureaucratic way and in a way that fits with their existing procedures, while ensuring that all employees' requests are considered properly.

Graduates: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate has been made of the number of UK graduates living abroad. [91368]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 23 January 2012]:* The requested data are not held centrally.

Green Investment Bank: Pay

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the annual staffing costs of the green investment bank on the basis of his Department's assumption that it will employ between 50 and 70 members of staff over the period to 2015 in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2013, *(c)* 2014 and *(d)* 2015. [87091]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on the 19 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 1024W.

Higher Education

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to bring more UK universities into the top 100 universities in the world. [91290]

Mr Willetts: Our policies for higher education are designed to sustain and improve the sector's world-class reputation. We have put in place reforms which mean a sustainable income stream for universities; a renewed focus on high-quality teaching so that it has the same prestige as research and we have reduced red tape—including enabling universities to collaborate more effectively and so drive up their performance. We have ring-fenced the science and research budget of £4.6 billion in cash terms, focusing investment on research excellence, and we have announced additional capital investment for research and innovation infrastructure. Through Higher Education Innovation Funding, universities are able to engage in knowledge exchange with the wider world.

Higher Education: Admissions

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which 100 schools had the highest proportion of applicants for undergraduate entry to Oxford and Cambridge universities accepted in 2011. [88919]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Education.

The Department does not collect data on university acceptances, but does hold data on participation in higher education linked to the National Pupil Database, which allows progression to HE from schools to be estimated. The latest data relate to young people in higher education in 2009/10.

The table showing the 100 secondary schools with the highest proportion of 2005/06 GCSE entrants progressing to enter either Oxford or Cambridge by 2009/10 has been placed in the House Libraries. The table does not take account of the institution where the student was during key stage 5.

Industrial Development Act 1982

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the results of the consultation on changes to the Industrial Development Act 1982. [91486]

Mr Prisk: The Government's consultation covering these proposed changes closed on 2 November 2011 and we are aiming to publish a response in February 2012.

Legal Profession: Regulation

Sir Alan Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the Government's policy on regulation of legal services on access to redress by consumers. [86831]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Justice.

The Legal Services Act 2007 established the Legal Services Board (LSB) as the oversight regulator for legal services, and the Office for Legal Complaints (OLC) which administers the legal ombudsman scheme. This is an independent body to handle consumer complaints in respect of legal services provided by authorised persons.

The 2007 Act requires the OLC and chief ombudsman to provide an annual report to Ministers and Parliament on the discharge of their functions and the extent to which they have met their regulatory objectives. This report was laid before Parliament on 18 July 2011 and identified areas where accessing redress for non-regulated legal services may be limited for consumers. As the Minister responsible, I welcomed this analysis. The OLC and the LSB have recently published their business plans and three-year strategies for consultation which include proposals to ensure effective redress for consumers.

Manufacturing Industries: Government Assistance

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to provide financial support for manufacturing industry. [91522]

Mr Prisk: There are a range of measures in place to support manufacturing industry. For example, on 6 December 2011, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), announced the Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative. Up to £125 million will be used to improve the global competitiveness of UK advanced manufacturing supply chains by supporting innovative projects where the UK is well placed to take a global lead. The fund will be run on a competitive basis by the Technology Strategy Board. The manufacturing sector also has opportunities to participate in collaborative R and D projects funded by the Technology Strategy Board and the EU Framework Programme.

In March 2011 we announced a new £75 million programme of targeted support to help smaller employers access advanced level and higher apprenticeships. Manufacturing companies, along with companies from other sectors, will benefit from this package. As part of this programme, on 22 July 2011, the Prime Minister announced details of a £25 million fund to support up to 10,000 advanced level and higher apprenticeships.

In addition to this, there are measures in place to help small businesses and start-up companies access the finance they need, including:

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, which helps small businesses lacking track record or collateral to secure bank finance;

The Enterprise Capital Funds programme, which provides equity funding to high growth potential businesses;

Export Enterprise Finance Guarantee which provides short-term export finance to viable small and medium-sized enterprises unable to secure commercial funding due to lack of available security.

The Government are also providing support to manufacturers and other businesses through the regional growth fund (RGF). The first two RGF rounds have allocated £1.4 billion to bids from industry, and from public private partnerships, which are expected to safeguard or create up to 326,000 jobs. An additional £1 billion for the RGF was set aside in the Autumn Statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810. Details of how to apply for future rounds of the fund will be published soon.

Retail Trade: Annual Reports

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will introduce measures to encourage large retailers to report on their support for local high streets as part of their corporate reporting. [90920]

Mr Prisk: The Mary Portas review, an independent review into the future of high streets was published in December, setting out a series of recommendations for industry, local and central Government, including one recommendation which referred corporate reporting. The Government have welcomed the report. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government, which is leading on the Government response, due to be published in the spring.

Students: Finance

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* fee waivers, *(b)* bursaries and *(c)* other non-financial support packages in assisting students to meet the living costs associated with going to university. [85775]

Mr Willetts: The Government provide a comprehensive package of living costs support for students undertaking higher education courses. For students starting their courses from September 2012, this will include an increased grant for living costs worth £3,250 for all those from households with an income up to £25,000 and increased loans for living costs of up to £5,500 (or up to £7,675 for students living away from home and studying in London). The new grant and loan package will result in most students being better off in terms of overall living costs support than under the current system, with the greatest support being targeted at students on the lowest incomes. No eligible student should be deterred from applying to higher education due to lack of access to finance.

Students: Loans

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to announce his decision on early repayment mechanisms for student loans. [90649]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 23 January 2012]:* The Government published a consultation on potential early repayment mechanisms for student loans alongside the White Paper consultation, "Students at the Heart of the System", on 28 June 2011.

The Department also published a technical consultation document, "A new fit for purpose regulatory framework for the higher education sector", on 4 August 2011.

We intend to publish in due course a single response covering the range of issues which were considered in these three consultations. The response will include a list of respondents and a summary of responses for each of the three consultations.

Summertime

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent meetings he has had with *(a)* the National Farmers Union and *(b)* other representatives of the farming community to discuss potential changes to daylight savings time; and if he will make a statement. [91247]

Mr Davey: No such meetings have taken place. Rebecca Harris's Daylight Saving Bill, as amended in Committee, would require the Government to prepare a report on the potential costs and benefits of advancing UK time by one hour before taking any action. This report would need to reflect the views of all interested parties, including the farming community.

Supermarkets: Competition

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to assess the effectiveness of the voluntary code of practice between producers and supermarkets; and if he will made a statement. [91597]

Mr Davey: The Groceries Supply Code of Practice, which sets out how grocery producers and large grocery retailers should interact, is established on a statutory basis by Order of the Competition Commission. The current form of the Groceries Supply Code of Practice came into effect on 4 February 2010. The Office of Fair Trading has responsibility for keeping remedies such as this under review.

Additionally, the Government plan to introduce a Groceries Code Adjudicator, to ensure that this Code of Practice is adhered to. The draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill sets out that this Adjudicator will be reviewed within the first three years after its introduction, and every three years thenceforth.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91386]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), leads on promoting, focusing and facilitating the contribution of businesses to the big society under Every Business Commits. I chair a joint BIS and Cabinet Office Steering Group, with Sir Philip Green who has been appointed as our adviser on corporate responsibility and Every Business Commits. The Steering Group provides the leadership for, and oversight of, progress across Government on our priorities.

Existing departmental business planning monitors progress on other BIS policies that contribute to the big society's drive to put individuals and communities in control: for example, empowering consumers, increasing learner choices, and supporting local enterprise partnerships.

Trade Unions: Training

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1034-6W, on Trade Unions: Training, how many trade union representatives or officials undertook courses covering each of the learning aim titles. [89740]

Mr Hayes: Data which show the number of trade union representatives or officials who enrolled on trade union representative courses are not available.

Information on further education and skills participation, enrolments and achievements is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* job titles and *(b)* pay bands are of trade union officials whose salaries have been funded by (i) the Union Learning Fund, (ii) public funds used to support TUC Education and (iii) other sources of public funding from his Department; and if he will make it his policy to name those individuals. [89741]

Mr Hayes: The information requested is as follows.

(i) The Union Learning Fund (ULF) is only used to pay the salaries of project managers, project workers and finance officers/administrators in the field whose work is solely related to union learning. In addition, costs for TUC staff employed to undertake the work of unionlearn and administer the ULF are funded through the annual Grant Funding Agreement. The tables outline job titles and pay bands.

(ii) The funding of TUC education courses, like all other further education and training courses is used to meet the costs of delivering the training not the salary costs of learners undertaking the training.

(iii) One member of TUC staff is currently employed to lead on their Union Modernisation Fund Vulnerable Workers Project which is due to be completed in May 2012. The aim of the project is to support trade unions to tackle vulnerable employment and raise awareness among union representatives and workers of the Pay and Work Rights Helpline and the role that the enforcement bodies can play in protecting vulnerable workers.

(iv) It is not the intention of BIS to make it policy to name individuals involved in the Union Learning Fund, unionlearn or the Union Modernisation Fund. This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Table A: Job titles project/admin workers of ULF funded within ULF

Pay band	*Job titles*
Pay bands will vary across projects	Project Managers Project Workers Finance Officers Administrators

Table B: Job titles pay bands of TUC staff funded within ULF

Pay band	*Job title*
Grade 2	1. Administrative Assistant
Grade 4	2. Administrative Assistant 3. Union Development Administrator
Grade 5	4. Project Assistant
Grade 6	5. Assistant Project Support Officer 6. Learning Centre Project Worker 7. Office Administrator 8. Senior Finance Assistant 9. Union Support Officer
Grade 7	10. Apprenticeships Liaison and Promotions Officer 11. Case Study Officer 12. Climbing Frame Support Officer 13. Development Worker 14. E Learning Support Officer 15. E-Learning and Communications Officer 16. Finance Officer

Table B: Job titles pay bands of TUC staff funded within ULF

Pay band	*Job title*
	17. Management Information Officer
	18. National Learning Centres Support Officer
	19. Personnel Assistant
	20. Project Accountant
	21. Project Manager
	22. Projects Finance Officer
	23. Senior Union Support Officer
	24. Web Officer
Grade 8	25. Apprenticeships Policy and Campaigns Officer
	26. Bargaining for Skills Officer
	27. Development Co-ordinator
	28. Learning Centre Manager
	29. Management Accountant
	30. Media Officer
	31. Projects Coordinator
	32. Regional and Training Officer
	33. Regional Education and Training Officer
	34. Training and Development Officer
	35. Time to Train Policy Officer
	36. Unionlearn Strategic Support Officer
	37. ULF Co-ordinator
	38. Vulnerable Workers Policy Officer
Grade 9	39. Communications and Marketing Manager
	40. Regional Manager
	41. Research and Strategy Manager
	42. Standards and Quality Manager
	43. Union Development Manager
	44. ULF Manager
Grade 10	45. Unionlearn Director

Table C: Job title and pay band of TUC staff member working on UMF project

Pay band	*Job title*
Grade 8	46. Vulnerable Employment Policy Officer

Working Hours: EU Law

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of the European working time directive on *(a)* family life and *(b)* children's subjective well-being; and whether he plans to make proposals for changes to the directive. [91511]

Mr Davey: The organisation of working time is only one aspect of a broader suite of social and economic policy measures which impact on family life and children's well-being and work. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has published a series of work-life balance surveys which looks at issues relating to work-life balance including working hours, the provision and take-up of flexible working arrangements, and employee attitudes to work-life balance issues. The latest published survey is available on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) website, and the fourth work-life balance survey will be published later this year.

European Social Partners are currently negotiating on the working time directive, an autonomous process independent of the European Commission and member states.

Plastic Surgery: Breasts

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with surgery companies on ensuring that the cost of *(a)* removing and *(b)* replacing implants which may include non-medical grade silicon gel as a result of product defaults is not passed on to their patients. [91258]

Mr Simon Burns: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department of Health.

Patients who received an implant from Poly Implant Prothèse as part of NHS treatment in England will be contacted and offered a consultation and, if they wish, a scan to determine whether their implants have ruptured or leaked. They will also be given the option, after discussion, with their GP or with the surgical team that carried out the original operation, of having the implants removed and replaced, whether or not there is evidence that the implants have ruptured.

We have made clear that we expect private providers of cosmetic surgery to make the same provision, without cost, for their patients. A number of organisations have already announced that they will do so and we expect the remainder to follow suit. For any patient whose original provider has gone out of business, or refuses to meet its moral and legal obligations, the NHS as provider of last resort will offer a consultation, a scan if desired, and removal (but not replacement) of the implants.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department are solely responsible for Overseas Territory affairs; and what the *(a)* job title is and *(b)* specific responsibilities are of each such official. [91042]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a dedicated department working on Overseas Territories that qualify for UK assistance. A total of 30 DFID officials work full-time on UK aid programmes providing assistance to St Helena, Montserrat, Tristan da Cunha and Pitcairn. Officials also monitor UK assistance provided to those Caribbean Territories which have required support to strengthen the management of their public finances.

DFID advisers and staff work closely with partners in Overseas Territory Governments in providing this aid. Examples include (i) support provided for health and education programmes; (ii) expert economics, governance, environment, and infrastructure advice; and

(iii) support with procurement and contracting. Regular monitoring and reviews of this aid ensures that UK assistance to the Overseas Territories is well targeted, provides value for money, and is being managed well. More information on DFID's work in the Overseas Territories can be found at DFID's website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department are engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91075]

Mr Duncan: On 1 January 2012 the Department for International Development had 2,480 staff. 467 (18.8%) staff are in UK-based corporate divisions and engaged in corporate or back office services. The remaining 2,013 staff (81.2%) are based in our Policy and International programme delivery divisions based both in the UK and overseas.

Sudan: Debts

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consideration he has given to provision of debt relief to the Government of Sudan. [90918]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Debt relief will be an important element of Sudan's economic development, which in turn will be critical if Sudan is to become a stable and peaceful nation. As such we have led international efforts to establish a technical working group on the issue, which is overseeing the necessary technical preparations for debt relief, meeting most recently in September 2011. However, as we have consistently made clear to the Sudanese Government, debt relief remains conditional on the need to see genuine progress towards inclusive peace and justice throughout the country, and resolving the outstanding issues from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has provided to Yemen since January 2011. [91119]

Mr Duncan: The amount of bilateral assistance provided to Yemen by the Department for International Development (DFID) is reported in "Statistics on International Development", which is available in the Library of the House and on DFID's website.

For the financial year 2010-11, total DFID bilateral programme expenditure was £51.1 million. For this financial year, 2011-12, bilateral programme spend to date is nearly £23 million, with significant further expenditure planned before the end of the financial year. A significant deterioration in security in Yemen during 2011 slowed DFID's programme delivery and led to an increased focus on the provision of humanitarian assistance. Unlike other donors we decided not to suspend our programme. We hope that political transition progresses well and that we are able to scale up our programme in 2012-13.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 25 January 2012

WORK AND PENSIONS

Baking Industry

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of asthma in the baking industry. [91647]

Chris Grayling: HSE provides advice and guidance to raise the awareness among employers and workers in the bakery industry of the risk of occupational asthma due to exposure to flour dust, and the protective measures that can be taken. HSE's website includes user-friendly resource such as case studies and downloadable material for both employers and workers. In addition, HSE has supported the Federation of Bakers in producing its own industry guidance on dust in bakeries, and the supermarket industry in producing standards for controlling flour dust in in-store bakeries. HSE and local authorities have undertaken inspection initiatives in recent years to embed and promote appropriate control practices.

More generally, HSE leads the Asthma Partnership Board (APB), a stakeholder group that has representatives from Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU), industry and medical organisations. The APB encourages organisations to share information and incorporate the key messages on occupational asthma into their own preventative health programmes and initiatives. In addition, HSE works with the Group of Occupational Respiratory Disease Specialists (GORDS) to improve knowledge and awareness among health care professionals of occupational respiratory diseases including asthma, and to standardise its diagnosis and management.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of cases of asthma caused by contact with flour in the baking industry. [91717]

Chris Grayling: Statistics specifically about the number of cases of asthma caused by high exposure to flour within the baking industry are not available. Published statistics do not allow the causative agent for cases of occupational asthma to be identified within a specific occupational group. Statistics for the occupational group "bakers and flour confectioners" are provided and these reflect the role of flour dust as a cause of occupational asthma.

Based on reports by chest physicians to the Surveillance of Work Related Occupational Respiratory Disease (SWORD) scheme and reports to the Occupational Physicians Reporting Activity (OPRA) scheme, the incidence of occupational asthma among "bakers and flour confectioners" during 2008–10 was estimated to be 19 cases per year. However, these statistics are subject to under-reporting and other statistical data sources suggest that the overall incidence of work-related asthma may be as much as tenfold higher than estimated by SWORD and OPRA.

Cold Weather Payments

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid to pensioners as a result of the increase in cold weather payments in winter 2010-11. [91913]

Steve Webb: During the 2010-11 winter season, it is estimated that cold weather payments amounting to £264.4 million were awarded to pensioners. This has been presented in the Autumn 2011 Statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810.

Note:

The figure given is an estimate based on analysis of benefit caseloads from the DWP 5% Quarterly Summary Extract, and a 5% adjusted Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study along with cold weather payments expenditure from the Social Fund White Paper accounts. It is an estimate and not actual payments made to pensioners.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse from freezing local housing allowance rates from April 2012 prior to uprating by the consumer prices index. [91648]

Steve Webb: Projected cash savings from the Budget 2010 decision to switch to CPI indexation for local housing allowance from 2013-14 are presented in the Budget 2011 document.

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_chapter2.pdf

On 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 163-65, as part of the uprating statement, I announced to Parliament further details of the implementation of the switch to CPI uprating from April 2013. Updated projections of the fiscal impact of this measure will be published at Budget 2012.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the projected savings in cash and real terms are from the uprating of local housing allowance by the consumer prices index for the remainder of the comprehensive spending review period. [91649]

Steve Webb: Projected cash savings from the Budget 2010 decision to switch to CPI indexation for local housing allowance from 2013-14 are presented in the Budget 2011 document.

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_chapter2.pdf

The Welfare Reform Bill impact assessment presents the savings in constant prices.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/hb-lha-cpi-uprating-wr2011-ia.pdf

Updated projections of cash savings will be published at Budget 2012.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the costs to local authorities of the application of the household benefit cap on temporary accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [91652]

Steve Webb: The Government published their revised impact assessment of the benefit cap on 23 January 2012. This says that the cap is likely to affect where different family types will be able to live but that it is not possible to quantify any resulting costs because they are based on behavioural changes which are difficult to assess robustly.

The impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/household-benefit-cap-wr2011-ia.pdf

Work Capability Assessment

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK have attended a work capability assessment carried out by Atos Origin in the last 12 months. [91446]

Chris Grayling: Unfortunately, the information requested is not available in the format requested.

Information is not held by constituency or by specific areas within a region.

To be able to produce this we would need to have a complete list of all the postcodes relating to the constituency or the particular area concerned.

The answer could be provided in the requested format only at disproportionate costs exceeding the disproportionate cost limit of £800 for parliamentary questions.

The total number of completed Work Capability Assessments (WCA's) carried out between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011 in the north-east is 70,458.

However the DWP regions reduced from 11 to seven from 1 July 2011. The figures for completed assessments in the north-east from this date also includes Yorkshire and Humber.

The total number of WCA's completed nationally in 2011 was 580,688.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Economic Affairs

12. **Eric Ollerenshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on economic development. [90836]

Mr Swire: We regularly meet the First and Deputy First Ministers and their colleagues in support of the Executive's efforts to develop the economy and I am accompanying the DETI Minister on a Trade Mission to the Gulf next month. We also work closely together on the Joint Ministerial Working Group on Rebalancing the Economy.

SCOTLAND

Sovereignty

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether it is his intention that the consultation on a referendum on independence for Scotland will involve *(a)* trade unions, *(b)* religious groups, *(c)* Scottish business and *(d)* wider civic society. [90650]

David Mundell: The aim of our consultation is to seek a wide range of views on how we can deliver a legal, fair and decisive referendum.

The Government believe that decisions which will have such an important impact on Scotland's future should not be taken behind closed doors. Through this consultation we are providing an opportunity for all people with an interest in Scotland's future to make their views heard.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had discussions with the Scottish Government on whether it is their intention that an independent Scotland would negotiate a mutual defence treaty with the rest of the UK. [90651]

David Mundell: The Scottish Government have not offered formal proposals on their plans for defence if Scotland were to become independent. The Government are confident that the people of Scotland will choose to remain part of the UK if a fair, legal and decisive referendum is held.

TREASURY

Defence: Expenditure

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of gross national income is spent on defence; and what he estimates the proportion will be *(a)* at the conclusion of tranche 2 of the armed forces redundancy programme and *(b)* in May 2015. [90960]

Danny Alexander: I intend to answer this question by giving the proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) spent on defence, rather than gross national income, as this is the international measure used.

As a member of NATO, we have a target to spend at least 2% of GDP on Defence. The most recent 2010-11 NATO figures show the UK currently spends 2.7% of GDP on defence.

It is impossible to state exactly what percentage of GDP or gross national income will be spent in future years as the total figure includes the costs of operations, pensions and payments made under the armed forces compensation scheme. However, I expect the percentage to remain above the 2% NATO target.

Revenue and Customs

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects HM Revenue and Customs to meet its target of dealing with child benefit claims within 23 days. [86020]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* Current forecasts indicate that while HMRC expect improvements in the current financial year, they do not expect to achieve this target by the end of the financial year. One of the reasons for this is that HMRC did not fully understand the age profile of their work. Processing some of the older work had an adverse impact on the timeliness target. However, this work will put them in a much stronger position during 2012/2013 when they expect to pay child benefit claims within an average of 23 days.

Tax Allowances: Offshore Trusts

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the additional revenue to the Exchequer that would be raised by ending the tax exemption for land held in offshore trusts; and if he will make a statement. [91409]

Mr Gauke: There is no tax exemption for land held in offshore trusts, and therefore no such estimate has been made.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to ask the National Audit Office to monitor and report on the effectiveness of Government Departments' participation in the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91354]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

There are no plans to ask the National Audit Office to monitor and report on the effectiveness of Government Departments' participation in the big society initiative.

Unemployment

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce a system for collecting data on the numbers of people who have experienced unemployment during set periods of time along the lines of the data collected by the US current population survey. [91689]

Miss Chloe Smith: The independent Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for producing official economic statistics for the UK. The independent Statistics Authority has powers to produce statistics, provide statistical services and promote statistical research. It provides the top level of governance for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), replacing the oversight role previously performed by HM Treasury Ministers.

HM Treasury, along with other users of statistics, have the opportunity to input into the work priorities of the ONS by contributing to consultations and users groups.

The ONS publishes detailed statistics on unemployment by duration. The latest release can be found at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/january-2012/table-unem01.xls

Working Tax Credit

Ann Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the conclusion contained in his Department's comprehensive spending review 2010 on the level of saving to the Exchequer resulting from an increase in hours worked for couples to qualify to claim the working tax credit, how the saving figure was calculated; and what his Department's assumption was of how many couples would *(a)* receive a reduced level of working tax credit due to increasing their working hours and *(b)* cease to receive working tax credit due to falling under the increased hours threshold. [91538]

Mr Gauke: The methodology used to calculate savings to the Exchequer from changes to tax credits at spending review 2010 can be found in the policy costings document: "Spending Review 2010 policy costings". This document is available at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

The increase in the hours rules for couples from 16 hours to 24 hours is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review.

Estimating the impact of an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full impact on an individual household.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the whole package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Charities: Shops

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the contribution of charity shops to the local community in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the west midlands. [90559]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* No assessment has been made. Charity shops deliver a public benefit by raising funds for worthy causes. Mary Portas considered charity shops in her independent report on the future of the high street that she presented to Government in December last year. The Government will respond to the report in the spring.

Council Tax Benefits

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with interested parties on proposals to transfer responsibility for council tax benefit to local authorities. [91608]

Robert Neill: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the local government sector to discuss a range of matters.

Council Tax: Rates and Rating

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will publish a table setting out the distribution between council tax bands A to H of *(a)* newly constructed properties added to the council tax register and *(b)* existing properties subject to a reassessment in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each housing authority in 2010-11 and the respective contribution of each to new homes bonus payments; [R] [90352]

(2) if he will publish a table setting out the distribution between council tax bands A to H of *(a)* the existing housing stock and *(b)* new additions to the housing stock in 2010-11 as submitted for the purpose of local authority new homes bonus claims in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each housing authority. [R] [90353]

Grant Shapps: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

This Department does not hold information on re-assessments; but it does invite representations from local authorities in response to provisional allocations, and these representations could include properties which have been re-assessed.

Housing and local government finance for Wales is a devolved matter.

I would note that these figures illustrate that two-thirds of the 158,535 additional homes that the new homes bonus has rewarded were in bands A to C, reflecting how it has rewarded the construction of lower-cost homes.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89405]

Robert Neill: As I informed the hon. Member in my answer to her question of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 58-59W, neither my Department nor the public bodies that we are responsible for, has had any unpaid or expenses-only internships in the last 12 months (in answering that question, I distinguished internships from work shadowing and volunteering).

In that context, my Department has not issued specific advice on interns, but we would expect our public bodies to have regard to the Government's Social Mobility Strategy published in April 2011 (page 56 specifically addresses the issue of payment to interns).

Social Rented Housing

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to amend social housing allocation policy to classify under-occupying tenants as being in housing need from April 2013. [91837]

Grant Shapps: We are making it easier for landlords to address under-occupation by increasing mobility, through changes to the allocation rules contained in the Localism Act 2011 and the introduction of a national home swap scheme, HomeSwap Direct.

On 5 January we published for consultation new statutory social housing allocations guidance for local authorities advising them of the importance of giving existing social tenants who are under-occupying their accommodation appropriate priority for a transfer.

In addition, the Department has allocated £13 million over the next four years to help local authorities support under-occupying social tenants who wish to downsize, as well as funding an action team within the Chartered Institute of Housing to work with all social landlords to help them promote moves.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91389]

Andrew Stunell: The Government have always been clear that the big society is not an initiative with specific metrics but captured the Government's desire to enable communities to come together in the common good, encourage greater personal responsibility and social action, as well as reforming public services to give greater choice and control to users. The Department is primarily concerned with creating the conditions for communities to take greater control of where they live.

We are currently working to implement the provisions in the Localism Act, including the Community Right to Bid, Community Right to Challenge, Community Right to Build and Neighbourhood Planning. There are currently 125 frontrunner neighbourhoods developing plans at the local level across England. We have recently invited tenders to provide support for the Community Rights to Bid, Build and Challenge and will monitor the number of groups assisted as part of the performance management of the contract.

I also refer the hon. Member to my answer of 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 247-48W, on the steps we are taking to support the local voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

EDUCATION

Academies

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consultation is required to ensure that a change to academy status is voluntary. [90354]

Mr Gibb: There is a statutory requirement for all schools becoming academies under the Academies Act 2010 to carry out a consultation. The school's governing body must consult such persons as they think appropriate.

Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the working time directive on *(a)* family life and *(b)* children's subjective well-being; [90872]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of flexible working on *(a)* family life and *(b)* children's subjective well-being. [90873]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The organisation of working time is only one aspect of a broader suite of social and economic policy measures which impact on family life and children's well-being and work. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has published a series of work-life balance surveys which looks at issues relating to work-life balance including working hours, the provision and take-up of flexible working arrangements, and employee attitudes to work-life balance issues. The latest published survey is available on the BIS website and the fourth work life balance will be published later this year.

The Department has also commissioned and published five research reports on the effects of the working time directive, and a further two occasional papers on issues concerning the interaction between family structure and fathers working hours on work-life balance issues.

Children: Disability

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds not in education, training or employment are *(a)* disabled and *(b)* on the autism spectrum. [90877]

Mr Hayes: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Table 1 shows the number and proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds[1] not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the third quarter of 2011 and who reported a Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and or work-limiting disability. Figures relating to the autism spectrum are not available.

Table 1: Disability status of 16 to 24-year-olds NEET in England, Quarter 3 2011

	Number of 16 to 24-year-olds NEET	*Percentage share of 16 to 24-year-olds NEET*	*95% confidence interval*
DDA or work-limiting disabled	222,000	19.1	+/- 2.0 pp
Not disabled	941,000	80.9	+/- 2.0 pp
Total	1,163,000	100.0	

Notes:

1. Age refers to academic age, which is defined as the age of the respondent at the preceding 31 August.
2. Estimates of the number NEET are rounded to the nearest thousand and may not sum to totals due to rounding.
3. All estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey; Quarter 3 2011.

Please note that these estimates are subject to sampling variability and should therefore be viewed in conjunction with their confidence intervals[2] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/-5 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 5pp above the estimate and 5pp below the estimate.

Quarterly estimates of the number of people aged 16-24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) derived from the Labour Force Survey are published by the Department for Education. The latest publication can be found online at

http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/a00199328/dfe-neet-statistics-quarterly-3-2011

Curriculum

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the average number of hours of teaching time per week for pupils in *(a)* academies and *(b)* other maintained schools. [89905]

Mr Gibb: We do not collect information on the average number of hours of teaching per week for pupils in academies or maintained schools. However, an evaluation of the academies programme in 2008 by PricewaterhouseCoopers found that 80% of academies were providing extended programmes of instruction and support for pupils by extending the number of teaching hours in the week. Academies have always had the freedom to vary the length of their school day and many continue to use this freedom to provide additional teaching time. We believe that this helps to raise standards particularly for those children from the poorest backgrounds and therefore in September 2011 this freedom was extended to maintained schools.

Departmental ICT

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many requests have been made to his Department's IT department from *(a)* officials and *(b)* special advisers working within his Department for information about the process of erasing data from (i) computer hard drives and (ii) all other forms of storage devices; and whether any such requests have received authorisation in each of the last 12 months. [90217]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* No requests have been made to the Department's IT service desk for information about the process for cleansing data from computer hard drives or other devices. No requests have been authorised. However the Department is moving to an IT infrastructure that no longer relies on individual storage devices on desks. As part of the roll-out of this system, security questions have been raised about the destruction of data on the old PC hard drives. The decision has been taken to move data held on individual hard drives into the new system or to create an archived record before secure disposal of obsolete equipment.

Official Visits

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether it is his policy to inform the relevant local education authority in advance of an official of his Department visiting a school. [89290]

Mr Gibb: We are keen to work in partnership with local authorities when officials from the Department visit schools and make every effort to notify the appropriate local authority in advance of a visit.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 15 December 2011 concerning a school in his constituency. [90562]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* The Under-Secretary of State for Education, my noble Friend, Lord Hill of Oareford, replied to the hon. Member on 18 January 2012.

Pupils: Assessments

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reason the calculation in the RAISEonline performance tool Table 4.1.25 is based on the total number of pupils in the cohort for English and mathematics but not on the number of pupils entered for sciences; and if he will make a statement. [91523]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* The RAISEonline report in question provides an analysis of a school's performance in the English baccalaureate. In 2010, only 15.6% of pupils achieved grades A*-C in the GCSEs which comprise the English baccalaureate, which was largely because of low entry levels for some of the subjects. This report therefore shows how a school performed in the separate subject areas so that a school's strengths and weakness can be understood.

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[1] Age used is respondents academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95% confidence intervals.

As we expect the vast majority of pupils to be entered for English and maths GCSEs, the proportion of pupils achieving grades A*-C is calculated against the whole cohort of pupils at the end of key stage 4.

However, the entry patterns for science, humanities and languages are different, with less than 50% of the cohort entering some of these subjects. The report for these subjects is therefore based upon the number of pupils entered for the subject, rather than the whole cohort.

School Funding Reform

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department expects to respond to its consultation on school funding reform. [91255]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education published the consultation on school funding reform in July 2011, and it closed in October. We received over 1,600 responses to the consultation and published a summary of these in December. We are considering the responses and will make further announcements in the spring.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* The Art Room, *(b)* the National Portrait Gallery, *(c)* Mountain Rescue England, *(d)* the English Schools Swimming Association, *(e)* the Scout Association and *(f)* Missing Links UK in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [90745]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not provided funding with any of these organisations in financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Expenditure: Drinks

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* wine, *(b)* other alcoholic refreshments and *(c)* bottled water since May 2010. [91634]

John Penrose: This Department's accounting system does not hold breakdowns of category spend by wine or other alcoholic refreshments specifically, and to collate this information would exceed the disproportionate cost limit.

In September 2008, the Department installed a system to filter and bottle tap water on site. The Department now no longer purchases bottled water.

Football Clubs

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent progress his Department has made on the reform of football governance to support the co-operative ownership of football clubs by supporters. [91718]

Hugh Robertson: The Government's response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee football governance inquiry sets out a number of recommendations for the football authorities to consider around increasing supporter representation and ownership at football clubs. It is for the football authorities to determine the best way of achieving the right changes in the game, and so we look forward to their response to this at the end of February.

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received from Supporters Direct concerning a proposed football club licensing system; and if he will make a statement on those proposals. [91844]

Hugh Robertson: Our response to the Select Committee Report into football governance calls for the introduction of a new club licensing system that would include conditions to help supporters have a greater say in how their clubs are run. It is for the football authorities to respond to this, and to set out the content of that licence. However, am aware of the proposals that Supporters Direct have in this area, and I would therefore encourage the football authorities to engage with them as part of this process.

Supporters Direct

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of Supporters Direct since May 2010. [91769]

Hugh Robertson: I met the previous chief executive of Supporters Direct in the spring. I am also kept informed through my officials who meet regularly with representatives of Supporters Direct, including the chief executive, on key supporter issues.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Legal Representation

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many *(a)* inquiries and *(b)* cases were dealt with by not-for-profit organisations funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission outside the civil legal aid scheme in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10, (iii) 2010-11 and (iv) 2011-12 to date; and what estimate has been made of the number of active cases being considered by these organisations. [89487]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an arm's-length body; the following is the information it has provided in response to this question:

The EHRC does not hold the information requested for (i) 2008-09 or (ii) 2009-10.

The EHRC holds information for *(b)* cases for (iii) 2010-11, and holds information for *(a)* inquiries and *(b)* cases for (iv) 2011-12; this information is as follows:

(iii) *(b)* Cases dealt with in 2010-11: 4,002[1]

(iv) *(b)* Cases dealt with during six month period April 2011 to September 2011 (inclusive): 2,627

The above is made up of:

Cases commenced in this period: 1,523

Cases commenced in prior years; work is ongoing: 1,104.

(iv) *(a)* Inquiries dealt with during six month period April 2011 to September 2011 (inclusive): 5,577

Based on quarterly reports received from these organisations, as at 30 September 2011 these organisations had 1,237 discrimination-related cases active[2].

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[1] The EHRC does not hold information on whether these cases commenced in 2010-11 or in prior years.

[2] An 'active' case means that the organisation has begun work on the case; the case may be at the stage of informal action.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Regulation

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to reduce the burden of regulation on the farming industry; and if she will make a statement. [91581]

Mr Paice: In my written statement of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 40-41WS, I announced the publication of the interim response to the Independent Farm Regulation Task Force. I stated that the Government's final response will be published in early in 2012. This is still my intention.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of landowners in receipt of subsidy payments under the *(a)* single payment scheme and *(b)* rural development programme whose land is held in an offshore trust; and if she will make a statement. [91419]

Mr Paice: No estimate has been made. Payments under the single payment scheme and rural development programme depend on the farmer having land at his or her disposal, not on the nature of the ownership. The Rural Payments Agency, therefore, does not hold information about whether land is held in an offshore trust.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will require the Rural Payments Agency to ensure landowners in receipt of subsidies under the single payment scheme and the rural development programme for England have registered their land with the Land Registry; and if she will make a statement. [91420]

Mr Paice: No. The Rural Payments Agency has no power under the EU scheme rules to make payments under either the single payment scheme or rural development programme conditional on landowners registering their land with the Land Registry.

Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition her Department uses for *(a)* animal health and *(b)* animal welfare in the context of the Animal Health and Welfare Board. [90578]

Mr Paice: The terms of reference of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England defines animal health and welfare within the scope of its responsibilities as relating to all kept animals, with the exception of circus and zoo animals where the scope relates to animal disease prevention matters only. Further detail can be found on DEFRA's website.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the recent ruling of the Austrian Constitutional Court dismissing an application brought by Circus Krone to challenge Austria's ban on the use of wild animals in circuses, what steps her Department will take to introduce a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. [90643]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for East Lothian (Fiona O'Donnell) on 17 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 734W.

British Waterways: Canal and River Trust

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the functions and assets of British Waterways in England and Wales to be transferred to the Canal and River Trust. [91645]

Richard Benyon: The length of the funding negotiations and parliamentary processes under the Public Bodies Act have put pressure on the launch date for the new charity. I will confirm shortly the date on which the new charity, subject to parliamentary consent, will be vested.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish her objectives for the current round of discussions on common agricultural policy reform; and if she will make a statement. [91528]

Mr Paice: The common agricultural policy (CAP) negotiations are at an early stage. The Commission's proposals were released on 12 October 2011 and are currently being considered by member states in the Agriculture Council, as well as by the European Parliament for the first time, under co-decision.

The UK Government want to see ambitious reform of the CAP. We will continue to argue for a very substantial cut to the CAP budget, focused on Pillar 1. The CAP that remains should provide better value and prepare for a future without income support. It should be used to encourage improved productivity and innovation to increase the competitiveness of the agriculture sector and a higher proportion of CAP funds should be used for the cost-effective delivery of public goods. We will also argue for a less complex CAP, with reduced burdens for administrators and beneficiaries.

Dangerous Dogs

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to take steps to control the prevalence of dangerous dogs. [91532]

Mr Paice: The Government are finalising a package of measures to tackle irresponsible dog ownership and will be announcing these soon.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidelines her Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89399]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA issued guidance to its non-departmental public bodies in July 2011 which makes clear that the employment of unpaid interns is not permitted.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department allocated to *(a)* Centrepoint, *(b)* Crisis, *(c)* Skill Force and *(d)* Shelter in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [90394]

Richard Benyon: In the financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12 to date, DEFRA has not funded Centrepoint, Crisis, Skill Force or Shelter.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 376W, on the third sector, how much direct funding of £250,000 or more her Department provided to each civil society organisation it funded in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how much it has allocated to each organisation in 2012-13; and if she will make a statement. [90750]

Richard Benyon: Direct funding of £250,000 or more, provided or allocated by DEFRA to civil society organisations in the years specified is as follows:

	£ million
2010-11	
Keep Britain Tidy	4.75
Action with Communities in Rural England	3.5
2011-12	
Keep Britain Tidy	4.0
Action with Communities in Rural England	3.2
2012-13 (allocated)	
Keep Britain Tidy	3.5
Action with Communities in Rural England	2.8

HEALTH

Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the national clinical director for diabetes to make a statement on the effect on diabetes care and provision of the proposed reforms to the NHS. [91508]

Paul Burstow: The National Audit Office is due to publish its report on "The management of adult diabetes services in the NHS" this summer. Dr Rowan Hillson, the national clinical director (NCD) for diabetes, will consider the report before making recommendations to Ministers on the next steps in providing consistent, quality healthcare for people with diabetes.

In the meantime, the Department continues to encourage current commissioners to use the national diabetes information service tools to ensure that all their. patients are receiving the care processes and outcomes required by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standard for diabetes, and to take action if this is not so.

Diabetes: Orthopaedics

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many amputations arising from diabetes-related complications have taken place in Leicester City primary care trust since January 2011; and how many such amputations were preventable. [91509]

Paul Burstow: The number of finished consultant episodes[1] with a primary diagnosis[2] of diabetes and a primary or secondary procedure[3] of amputation[4], performed by Leicester City primary care trust since January 2011 is 22 for the months January 2011 to September 2011. Data from April 2011 to September 2011 are provisional data[5] and subject to change.

Data on preventable amputation are not available.

[1] A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

ICD-10 codes used:

E10—Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
E11—Non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
E12—Malnutrition-related diabetes mellitus
E13—Other specified diabetes mellitus
E14—Unspecified diabetes Mellitus

[3] The number of episodes where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a HES record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

OPCS codes used:

X07—Amputation of arm
X08—Amputation of hand
X09—Amputation of leg
X10—Amputation of foot
X11—Amputation of toe
X121—Re-amputation at higher level

[4] The number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one procedure field of the record. Note that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients undergoing a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.

[5] The data are provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made. Counts produced from provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final dataset. This shortfall will be most pronounced in the final month of the latest period, i.e. November from the (month 9) April to November extract. It is also probable that clinical data are not complete, which may in particular affect the last two months of any given period. There may also be errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected.

First Aid: Education

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on bringing forward legislative proposals to require the teaching of emergency life support skills in schools. [91291]

Anne Milton: The teaching of emergency life skills will be considered as part of the Department for Education's current review of Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE).

I have ongoing discussions with Ministers and officials about PSHE.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money the NHS has received from each EU member state for treatment of their nationals in the NHS in each of the last three years. [91268]

Anne Milton: The following table shows payments made to the United Kingdom Government by European economic area (EEA) countries for treatment provided to their citizens in the UK as either state pensioners, temporary visitors using the European Health Insurance Card, workers posted to the UK by an employer based in the debtor country and dependents of these categories.

EEA medical costs: Claim payments

			Payments to UK (£)
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Austria	30,000	48,000	145,000
Belgium	2,820,000	1,743,000	931,000
Bulgaria	0	0	0
Cyprus	0	0	0
Czech Republic	2,000	78,000	35,000
Denmark (Waiver)	0	0	0
Estonia (Waiver)	0	0	0
Finland (Waiver)	0	2,000	0
France	5,224,000	6,545,000	1,768,000
Germany	94,000	546,000	2,916,000
Greece	864,000	246,000	269,000
Hungary (Waiver)	8,000	38,000	0
Iceland	0	25,000	19,000
Ireland	19,560,000	22,723,000	20,229,000
Italy	0	672,000	19,517,000
Latvia	0	0	11,000
Liechtenstein	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	5,000
Luxembourg	0	0	10,000
Malta (Waiver)	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	6,581,000	0
Norway (Waiver)	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	374,000
Portugal	18,000	152,000	39,000
Romania	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	22,000
Slovenia	6,000	61,000	270,000
Spain	4,226,000	158,000	1,631,000
Sweden	280,000	865,000	3,334,000
Switzerland	0	38,000	211,000
Total payments	33,100,000	40,500,000	51,700,000

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has paid to each EU member state for the health treatment of UK citizens in each of the last three years. [91341]

Anne Milton: The following table shows payments made by the United Kingdom Government to European economic area (EEA) countries for treatment provided to UK citizens as either state pensioners, temporary visitors using the European Health Insurance Card, workers posted to that country, by a UK based employer and dependents of these categories.

Claims are submitted in arrears, sometimes several years in arrears. Payments made in any one year will therefore relate to claims for previous years, and do not reflect the value of claims made or received in that year. Payment totals may vary significantly due to variations in the timing of payments made or received for different countries and different claims.

EEA medical costs

			£
		Payments to member states	
Claim payments	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Austria	6,190,000	4,934,000	1,789,000
Belgium	6,928,000	6,872,000	220,000
Bulgaria	25,000	46,000	5,000
Cyprus	14,366,000	842,000	5,976,000
Czech Republic	318,000	451,000	428,000
Denmark (waiver)	0	0	0
Estonia (waiver)	0	0	0
Finland (waiver)	22,000	23,000	17,000
France	166,990,000	203,620,000	65,213,000
Germany	33,322,000	15,612,000	7,539,000
Greece	6,976,000	878,000	2,281,000
Hungary (waiver)	0	0	0
Iceland	205,000	0	99,000

EEA medical costs

£

Claim payments	*Payments to member states* 2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Ireland	86,490,000	315,868,000	256,754,000
Italy	0	9,244,000	1,848,000
Latvia	19,000	16,000	12,000
Liechtenstein	7,000	1,000	0
Lithuania	22,000	21,000	1,000
Luxembourg	0	10,000	62,000
Malta (waiver)	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	20,686,000	0
Norway (waiver)	0	51,000	0
Poland	1,096,000	2,525,000	1,579,000
Portugal	202,000	1,832,000	1,859,000
Romania	2,000	5,000	3,000
Slovakia	389,000	567,000	410,000
Slovenia	210,000	161,000	130,000
Spain	118,361,000	228,387,000	100,710,000
Sweden	3,302,000	1,333,000	1,415,000
Switzerland	5,898,000	3,762,000	3,298,000
Total payments	451,300,000	817,700,000	451,600,000

Land: Contamination

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the effect of the new principles in his Department's proposed contaminated land statutory guidance on individual sites has been tested in a pilot; and whether any land assessed as presenting an unacceptable risk to human health is likely to be reclassified as safe under his Department's proposals. [91264]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs as Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries.

The new principles in the proposed contaminated land statutory guidance have not been tested in a pilot. However, the new guidance was developed in partnership with a broad range of experts and interested stakeholders; it reflects various issues that have come to light over the 10 years the regime has been in place that needed clarification. The revised guidance has been subjected to full public consultation. The existing statutory guidance continues to apply until the new statutory guidance has been issued.

The new statutory guidance would not require local authorities to re-determine the status of any sites. However, it would make it possible for local authorities to revisit a determination if new information came to light that changed the basis on which the land was determined as contaminated land.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 6 October 2011 regarding Saheed Onikeku. [91712]

Mr Simon Burns: A reply was issued to the right hon. Member on 31 October 2011.

Muscular Dystrophy

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* age group in each of the last five years. [91902]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of people diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy is not collected centrally.

Neurology

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that people with neurological conditions receive health and social care. [91625]

Paul Burstow: The proposed reforms to commissioning, the greater focus on improving quality and joining services up more effectively, alongside a stronger collective voice for patients and the public will ensure the delivery of better, more seamless, services and improve patient and public experience.

Commissioning in the past has been too remote from the patients it intends to serve. Clinical commissioning groups will ensure that commissioning decisions are underpinned by clinical insight and knowledge of local health care needs.

Our commissioning reforms also recognise the needs of patients for specialised services, with the NHS Commissioning Board, in future, commissioning such services. Additionally, there will be flexibility for commissioning groups to decide how to commission other low-volume services, for example, through collaboration.

Quality standards, developed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, will be at the heart of the system, providing authoritative statements of high quality care. They will have real traction within the system, linking with tariffs that will see providers paid more for quality care.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the findings of the National Audit Office report on services for people with neurological conditions published on 16 December 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91626]

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the National Audit Office report on services for people with neurological conditions, how the Government's forthcoming long-term conditions strategy will address issues surrounding neurological services monitoring and quality. [91857]

Paul Burstow: We are considering the National Audit Office report on services for people with neurological conditions, and will be responding in due course.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Insurance

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS foundation trusts which have left the NHS Litigation Authority and sought commercial insurance coverage. [91474]

Mr Simon Burns: No national health service foundation trusts have provided the NHS litigation authority with notice to leave any of the NHS indemnity schemes.

NHS foundation trusts are free to purchase commercial insurance, and already do for a range of risks, including cover for motor vehicles and income generation activities.

NHS Litigation Authority: Finance

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that NHS foundation trusts' contributions to the NHS Litigation Authority are proportional to their claims histories and risk management strategies. [91242]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Litigation Authority already takes account of members' claims histories and risk management strategies when assessing contributions.

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the costs of membership are of the NHS Litigation Authority for each NHS trust and foundation trust. [91348]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) publishes details of members' contributions in NHSLA Factsheet 5 under the publication section of its website at:

www.nhsla.com/Publications/

NHS: Compensation

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has paid in compensation to NHS patients for operations and treatments in non-NHS hospitals and treatment centres in each of the last three years. [91270]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is in the following table.

Amount paid in compensation to national health service patients for treatment in non-NHS hospitals and treatment centres

	Total paid (£)
2008-09	1,313,166
2009-10	2,576,139
2010-11	3,004,493
Total	6,893,799

Source:
NHS Litigation Authority

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money the NHS has recovered from private hospitals and treatment centres as a result of the NHS having to pay compensation to patients following NHS treatment in those hospitals and treatment centres in each of the last three years. [91271]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on how much money has been recovered from private hospitals as a result of the national health service paying compensation for NHS treatment is not collected centrally.

Where the NHS has paid compensation, the costs of such payments are factored into the contributions paid by primary, care trusts (PCTs) to the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA). Figures for PCT contributions can be found in NHSLA Factsheet 5 under the publication section of the NHSLA website at:

www.nhsla.com/Publications/

PCTs have local arrangements in place to recover costs from private health care providers.

NHS: Negligence

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* claims and *(b)* successful claims for clinical negligence have been brought against each NHS trust and foundation trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [91349]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) publishes details of claims received by members in NHSLA Factsheet 5 under the publication section of its website at:

www.nhsla.com/Publications/

Information about successful claims for clinical negligence has been placed in the Library in the document "Clinical negligence claims settled by the NHS Litigation Authority during 2010-11 with damages".

Palliative Care: Finance

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to respond to the report of the palliative care funding review. [91445]

Paul Burstow: The independent palliative care funding review reported in July 2011. We have welcomed the review's final report, which has made an excellent start in looking at this complex and challenging issue. It has come up with a range of significant proposals, which we now need to consider in detail.

One of the review's key recommendations was that a number of pilots be set up to collect data and refine its proposals due to the lack of good quality data currently available. We will be setting up pilots from April 2012. The pilots will run for two years, with the aim of having a new funding system for palliative care in place by 2015, a year sooner than the review proposed. We will be able to give a full response to the review's recommendations once the work of the pilots is concluded and the evidence they obtain scrutinised.

Speech Therapy

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the provision of speech and language therapy for children. [91169]

Anne Milton: The Government recognise the importance of ensuring that there is effective support for children with speech, language and communication difficulties. This is why at both ministerial and senior official level there are regular meetings, also involving key external partners, to discuss how these services can play a full contribution in improving patient care, experience and outcomes more widely.

Surgery: Hertfordshire

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been refused routine operations until they lost weight in Hertfordshire in the last year. [91536]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91396]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department encourages and supports the big society agenda. In health care, public health and social care, the big society vision has driven our work to help people take control over their lives, the services they use and communities they live in.

We are embedding this new approach throughout our proposed health and social care reforms. The vision set out for the national health service, social care and public health puts patients, service users and carers at the heart of services they use and in control of what they access—"no decision about me without me". This is well aligned with a big society approach.

Over the coming years the Department will continue to have a strategic role in the design of the new health and care system. It will be a key shaper and architect and as such will ensure that our strategies and policies keep people at the forefront of all that we do, working together with our partners and stakeholders to achieve better experiences for all those who interact with the health and care system and help to grow the big society.

Tuberculosis

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to monitor the recent outbreak of drug-resistant tuberculosis in India, Italy and Iran and its effect on the UK. [91565]

Anne Milton: The Department is aware of the recent outbreak of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) in India and is monitoring the situation. The World Health Organization (WHO) has advised that for the time being these cases should be considered extensively drug-resistant (XDR) rather than totally drug-resistant, as it is not clear that they are resistant to all drugs available to treat TB. The WHO is convening an expert meeting in March 2012 to consider the issues in detail and any wider implications.

In this country, early detection of drug-resistant TB cases is achieved through laboratory testing, tracing and screening of contacts of drug-resistant cases and epidemiological surveillance. Due to the complexity of managing XDR-TB, such patients should be referred to TB specialists with experience in treating drug-resistant TB through the national multi-drug resistant service.

This incident highlights the need to sustain and strengthen existing measures for TB control on an international level by early detection and diagnosis; effective and complete treatment; and contact-tracing. The United Kingdom continues to contribute to and support activities in global TB control.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bell Pottinger Group

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what official meetings he has had with third parties at the recommendation of, or with the assistance of, Bell Pottinger Group since May 2010. [91490]

Mr Lidington: None.

China: Animal Welfare

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Chinese Government on *(a)* reports of cruelty in fur farms and *(b)* improving the standard of animal welfare in that country. [90591]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I have not raised the standards of animal welfare in fur farms in China with the Chinese Government. However the Government are supportive of work to raise standards of animal welfare at home and overseas. Where appropriate, we support co-ordinated action to promote standards internationally. The UK has been fully supportive of an EU-wide ban on the import, export and sale of domestic cat and dog fur and products containing such fur. It has taken the action required to enforce this ban.

We also welcome the work that non-governmental organisations such as Animals Asia Foundation, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals undertake with the Chinese authorities to improve standards of animal welfare in China.

EU Countries: Detainees

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens are currently in detention awaiting trial in *(a)* EU countries other than the UK and *(b)* non-EU countries; and how many in each case have been detained for over six months without being brought to trial. [91126]

Alistair Burt: As of September 2011 we were aware of 780 British nationals detained in EU countries other than the UFC and a further 1797 British nationals in detention in non-EU countries. These figures include individuals detained at all stages of the legal process. We are unable to estimate how many of these individuals are currently awaiting trial or how many have been detained for over six months without being brought to trial. Estimating these figures would prove difficult and incur disproportionate cost.

The primary role of consular staff is one of welfare. We aim to contact British nationals, depending on local circumstances, within 24 hours of being told of their arrest or detention, and provide all prisoners with an informative "Prisoner Pack", which includes basic information about the local legal system and the non-governmental organisation Fair Trials International (FTI). We will consider approaching the local authorities if a British national is not treated in line with internationally-accepted standards, including if their trial is unreasonably delayed compared to local cases.

Intercountry Adoption

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the number of intercountry adoptions in the last 10 years. [90003]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Education.

Intercountry adoptions have declined since the mid-2000s. The following table sets out the approximate number of applications received by my Department during the past 10 years. Not all applications result in adoptions and some applications can be for more than one child. Data on the number of adoptions are only available for 2010 and 2011.

	Number of applications[1]	*Number of adoptions*[1]
2002	285	n/a
2003	301	n/a
2004	333	n/a
2005-	369	n/a
2006	363	n/a
2007	356	n/a
2008	225	n/a
2009	200	n/a
2010	146	174
2011	146	154

[1] The data exclude applications/adoptions by prospective adopters resident in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man who apply to adopt from countries that have implemented the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and, since 2010, all applications/adoptions from Scotland.

Iran

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports that Iran may close the Strait of Hormuz; and if he will make a statement. [91025]

Alistair Burt: As the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), said on 5 January:

> "It is in the interests of all nations that the arteries of global trade are kept free, opening and running. Disruption to the flow of oil through Strait of Hormuz would threaten regional and global economic growth. Any attempt by Iran to do this would be illegal and unsuccessful."

Given that 95% of Iran's oil exports transit the Strait of Hormuz, it is against Iran's own interests to seek to close the Strait.

Iran's threats will not distract our attention from the real issue, which is the nature of its nuclear programme. We call on Iran to respond constructively to the international community's concerns and engage seriously with the UK, United States of America, France, Germany, Russia and China—the so-called E3+3.

Iran: Oil and Gas

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has a contingency plan to deal with a blockade of oil and gas shipments in the Strait of Hormuz by Iran. [90908]

Alistair Burt: As the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), said on 5 January:

> "It is in the interests of all nations that the arteries of global trade are kept free, opening and running. Disruption to the flow of oil through Strait of Hormuz would threaten regional and global economic growth. Any attempt by Iran to do this would be illegal and unsuccessful."

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office works closely with other Government Departments and international partners on contingency arrangements for threats posed by Iran to UK interests.

Israel: Prisoners

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Israeli Government calling on them to end the practice of detaining children in solitary confinement. [91676]

Alistair Burt: We regularly discuss the treatment of prisoners with the Israeli authorities and have raised concerns over reports of solitary confinement. We remain concerned about the treatment of Palestinian children under the Israeli military justice system.

I discussed the treatment of prisoners most recently with Deputy Foreign Minister Ayalon on 18 January 2012. The British ambassador to Tel Aviv discussed penal policy with senior Israeli officials on 6 October 2011, and with the Israeli Prison Service on 26 October, raising issues of concern such as visitation rights (especially for minors), and the treatment of minors, particularly cuffing and shackling. I also discussed the issue with Minister of Justice Neeman during his visit to the region in July 2011 and with the Israeli ambassador to the UK on 26 October 2011.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 585-6W, on Israel: prisoners, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterparts on the concerns raised in the report submitted to the United Nations on 28 December 2011 on the use of solitary confinement on Palestinian children held in Israeli detention. [91623]

Alistair Burt: We regularly discuss the treatment of prisoners with the Israeli authorities and have raised concerns over reports of solitary confinement. We remain concerned about the treatment of Palestinian children under the Israeli military justice system.

I discussed the treatment of prisoners most recently with Deputy Foreign Minister Ayalon on 18 January 2012. The British ambassador to Tel Aviv discussed penal policy with senior Israeli officials on 6 October 2011, and with the Israeli Prison Service on 26 October, raising issues of concern such as visitation rights (especially for minors), and the treatment of minors, particularly cuffing and shackling. I also discussed the issue with Minister of Justice Neeman during his visit to the region in July 2011 and with the Israeli ambassador to the UK on 26 October 2011.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 585-6W, on Israel: prisoners, what mechanism he expects the UN to use to respond to the report submitted to it on 28 December 2011 on the use of solitary confinement on Palestinian children held in Israeli detention. [91624]

Alistair Burt: We understand that the UN is considering its response to the report submitted to it on 28 December. It is not yet clear what form this might take.

We are in discussion with the Israeli Government on this issue and have raised concerns over reports of solitary confinement. We remain concerned about the treatment of Palestinian children under the Israeli military justice system.

We welcome Israel's decision on 4 October to raise the age of legal majority for Palestinian children in the Israeli military justice system from 16 to 18 years old. When fully implemented, this will be an important step towards protecting children's rights in the west bank. We continue to lobby for further improvements, including a reduction in the number of arrests that occur at night and the introduction of audio-visual recording of interrogations.

Languages: Education

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he has any plans to reopen his Department's language schools; and if he will make a statement. [91344]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), announced in his speech of 8 September 2011 that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will re-open a language centre in the FCO. The plans for this are being developed as part of FCO's wider Estate Reform Programme. At the same time, under the FCO's "Diplomatic Excellence" initiative, we are already strengthening our language training provision to ensure FCO staff build the expertise required to support British foreign policy priorities.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the attack on Mahmoud Abu Rahma in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [91510]

Alistair Burt: The British Consulate-General in Jerusalem is aware of this incident. Mahmoud Abu Rahma is a human rights defender and Director of Communications and International Relations at the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza. On 13 January 2012, Abu Rahma was walking from the house of his brother Mohammed to his home nearby when three masked individuals carrying sharp tools attacked him and stabbed him in his back, leg and shoulders. Abu Rahma sustained a stab wound in his hand as he tried to defend himself from attacks to his chest. Abu Rahma stated that the attackers had tried to stab him in his chest; however his laptop, which blocked a lot of the attacks, saved him. The attackers then withdrew while shouting death threats and insults.

Abu Rahma had also recently received threats on his mobile phone and e-mail. It is suspected that these attacks were launched as a result of an opinion piece Abu Rahma had written titled "Absent Protection: Among Resistance, Government and Citizens" in which he criticised the growing power of the Palestinian militant groups and called for protection of the citizens from the militants' growing power.

I issued the following statement on 20 January:

> "I condemn the cowardly stabbing of Mahmoud Abu Rahma, Director of Communications and International Relations at the Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, in Gaza on 13 January. Mr Abu Rahma, who studied human rights in the UK, had received a number of death threats over an article he had written in which he argued for greater respect for the rights of ordinary Palestinians in Gaza. Those who carried out this attack must be brought to justice. The freedom of brave activists like Mr Abu Rahma to speak out against the worsening human rights situation in Gaza must be protected."

Morocco: Politics and Government

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Morocco on the development of democracy in Morocco. [91266]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), visited Morocco in October 2011, where he discussed Morocco's programme of reform with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other political leaders. He expressed the UK's support for continued reform in Morocco. The Secretary of State also launched programmes under our Arab Partnership, which will support Morocco in its efforts to increase political participation and promote transparency in public institutions.

Following elections in Morocco, the Deputy Prime Minister spoke to the new Moroccan Head of Government Abdelilah Benkirane by telephone on 20 January. They discussed the new Government's reform plans. The Deputy Prime Minister expressed the UK's support for continued reform in Morocco.

Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received representations on the assets of former President Ben Ali of Tunisia held in UK or British Overseas Territories. [91265]

Alistair Burt: The UK is aware of, and fully supports, the Tunisian Government's attempt to recover misappropriated state funds and is committed to taking action consistent with domestic and EU law to return stolen assets.

On 4 February 2011, the EU adopted Council Regulation (EU) No 101/2011 which imposed an asset freeze on Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali. The regulation has direct effect in the UK and has been extended to the Overseas Territories. An asset freeze is now in place against Ben Ali and 47 other individuals. We continue to work with the Tunisian Government to ensure they understand the legal processes involved in releasing and repatriating of assets.

CABINET OFFICE

Business

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* micro, *(b)* small and *(c)* medium-sized businesses in (i) Newton Abbott constituency, (ii) Devon and (iii) the South West. [90299]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what recent estimate has been made of the number of (a) micro, (b) small and (c) medium-sized businesses in (i) Newton Abbott constituency, (ii) Devon and (iii) the South West. [90299]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprises are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The following table contains the latest statistics available, which show the number of enterprises in South West, Devon County and Newton Abbot by employee size band.

Count of enterprises in the South West, Devon County and Newton Abbot by employee size bands for 2011

	0-9 (micro)	*10-49 (small)*	*50-249 (medium)*	*Total*
South West	176,610	16,700	2,680	195,990
Devon County	30,350	2,670	385	33,405
Newton Abbot	2,540	285	50	2,875

Note:
The above figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, to avoid disclosure.

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate has been made of the number of businesses in *(a)* Newton Abbott constituency, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* the South West that employ fewer than five people. [90300]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what recent estimate has been made of the number of businesses in (a) Newton Abbott constituency, (b) Devon and (c) the South West that employ fewer than five people. [90300]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprises are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The following table contains the latest statistics available, which show the number of enterprises in South West, Devon County and Newton Abbot by employee size band of 0-4.

	Employee size 0-4
South West	154,745
Devon County	26,750
Newton Abbot	2,195

Note:
The above figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, to avoid disclosure.

Expenditure: Drinks

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on *(a)* wine, *(b)* other alcoholic refreshments and *(c)* bottled water since May 2010. [91632]

Mr Maude: The information required is not held in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Any expenditure on alcohol is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

The Department publishes monthly information on expenditure on

www.data.gov.uk

Food Poisoning

Simon Hart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in the UK died as a direct result of food poisoning in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [91942]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people in the UK died as a direct result of food poisoning in (a) 2010 and (b) 2011. (91942)

The latest available figures for deaths registered in the United Kingdom are for the year 2010. We are therefore not able to provide figures for 2011.

In the United Kingdom there were 35 deaths with an underlying cause related to food poisoning in 2010. The International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes used to define food poisoning are presented in Box 1. Although all of the causes of death included in the answer are related to the ingestion of food, it is not possible to say whether these deaths were definitely associated with the ingestion of food, water or any other substance, since this is not routinely recorded on the death certificate.

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age, cause, marital status, and place of death are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-27475

Figures for Scotland are available in the annual Vital Events Reference Tables produced by the National Records for Scotland at:

http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/general/ref-tables/index.html

Figures for Northern Ireland are available in an annual statistical bulletin produced by the Northern Ireland Research and Statistics Agency at:

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp23.htm

Box 1: Causes of death related to food poisoning—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

ICD-10 code(s)	*Cause of death*
A00-A01	Cholera, Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers
A02	Other salmonella infections (excluding typhoid and paratyphoid fevers)
A04.0	Enteropathogenic Escherichia coli infection
A04.1	Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli infection

Box 1: Causes of death related to food poisoning—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

ICD-10 code(s)	*Cause of death*
A04.2	Enteroinvasive Escherichia coli infection
A04.3	Enterohaemorrhagic Escherichia coli infection
A04.4	Other intestinal Escherichia coli infection
A04.5	Campylobacter enteritis
A05	Other bacterial foodborne intoxications
A07	Other protozoal intestinal diseases
A32	Listeriosis
B66.1	Clonorchiasis
B66.3	Fascioliasis
B66.4	Paragonimiasis
B68-B70	Taeniasis, Cysticercosis, Diphyllobothriasis and sparganosis
B75	Trichinellosis
B81.0	Anisakiasis
T62	Toxic effect of other noxious substances eaten as food (where X49, X69 or Y19 is the underlying cause)
T64	Toxic effect of aflatoxin and other mycotoxin food contaminants (where X49, X69 or Y19 is the underlying cause)
X49	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances (where T62 or T64 is the secondary cause)
X69	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances (where T62 or T64 is the secondary cause)
Y19	Poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances, undetermined intent (where T62 or T64 is the secondary cause)

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency's proposals for accelerating the geological disposal programme on the unit costs for disposal of *(a)* legacy advanced gas-cooled reactor and *(b)* new build pressurised water reactor spent fuel. [90966]

Charles Hendry: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has conducted an initial review of potential options for accelerating the geological disposal facility programme and delivered its report on 22 December 2011. The NDA's report, which is available on the NDA's website, sets out several scenarios and a high level analysis in terms of potential benefits, challenges and risks to the programme. The NDA's report represents initial findings and indicates where further work is needed to determine the viability of options for accelerating key dates within the current indicative timetable. As a first step I have asked the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) to provide advice on the NDA's initial work and my Department will have the work externally peer reviewed in parallel to this. Only when this and the NDA's further work is concluded will the Government be in a position to consider making any firm proposals for acceleration of the programme.

Carbon Emissions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what he policy is on establishing a permanent data series to monitor carbon dioxide emissions on a producer and consumer basis; with reference to the report commissioned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on development of an embedded carbon emissions indicator, what assessment he has made of the UK-MRIO 1 model; and whether he has considered commissioning such a data series to monitor emissions. [91006]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

We recognise the value of assessing the UK's consumption emissions, and have published more up-to-date estimates several times since the first Development of an embedded carbon emissions indicator report was produced in 2008. We now have a formal contract in place to provide regular estimates of consumption emissions using the MRIO model, with the first results (for 1990 to 2009) expected in March this year.

Electricity

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the use of short-term operating reserve aggregators; and if he will make a statement. [90582]

Charles Hendry: National Grid, as the system operator, is responsible for keeping the system in balance, including the procurement of balancing services under the terms of its transmission licence. These balancing services include short term operating reserve (STOR).

National Grid has contracts, monitoring processes and penalties in place to minimise the risk of paying for capacity that cannot deliver when required. In addition Ofgem places commercial incentives on National Grid to ensure it balances the system efficiently and provides value for consumers, which they assess regularly.

Nuclear Power Stations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representation his Department will have at the first public meeting on the stress tests of nuclear power plants in Europe and the related peer reviews under the auspices of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group in Brussels on 17 January. [90967]

Charles Hendry: The UK Government were represented at the public meeting on the stress tests by the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

Nuclear Power Stations: Hinkley Point

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will investigate the actions of National Grid in relation to the Hinkley Point C Connection and the effect of the scheme on the village of Mark. [91564]

Charles Hendry: In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change will consider National Grid's consent application for the Hinkley Point C Connection once it has been examined by the Planning Inspectorate and he has received its recommendation. For reasons of planning propriety, the Secretary of State will not investigate this proposal at an earlier stage.

In its announcement of a preferred route corridor for the Hinkley Point C Connection on 29 September 2011, National Grid said it:

> "will continue to work with key stakeholders including local communities to carry out environmental surveys and to consider where under grounding or other mitigating measures such as tree planting and landscaping may be suitable".

I would encourage all interested parties to participate in National Grid's ongoing consultation process.

Smart Meters

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with energy suppliers regarding the interoperability of smart meters. [91138]

Charles Hendry: The Department regularly meets representatives of the energy industry to discuss various aspects of the rollout of smart meters, including interoperability. Most recently, on 18 January 2012 the Smart Meters programme held meetings of the Home Area Network Advisory Group and Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91393]

Gregory Barker: Departmental business plans set out clear priorities across Government, including what we are putting in place to support the growth of big society, and we continue to report publicly on progress against these priorities at:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/transparency/srp/

For example, one of DECC's key priorities is the Green Deal. We are aiming to create a flexible framework for the Green Deal (which includes monitoring and evaluation processes) to enable all households in a community to take up energy efficiency measures. To enable and support communities to prepare for this, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change announced 82 community winners in the first tranche of DECC's £10 million Local Energy Assessment Fund "LEAF" on 16 January. They share £4 million to undertake feasibility studies for proposed community energy and energy efficiency schemes. A second tranche of LEAF winners is expected to be announced in early February.

Wind Power

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for the construction of commercial wind turbines have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in (i) Meriden, (ii) Inverness, Nairn, Badenock and Strathspey, (iii) Chesham and Amersham, (iv) Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk and (v) North Shropshire constituency since May 2010. [91719]

Charles Hendry: The UK Government do not hold planning information by constituency in England and Wales. Planning decisions are a devolved matter in Scotland, but I understand that the Scottish Government do not hold information in this format either.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many applications for the construction of commercial wind turbines have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in (i) South West Surrey, (ii) Sutton Coldfield, (iii) Putney, (iv) Brentwood and Ongar and (v) Eastleigh constituency since May 2010; [91720]

(2) how many applications for the construction of commercial wind turbines have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in (i) Maidenhead, (ii) Rushcliffe, (iii) Tatton, (iv) Richmond (v) Sheffield Hallam, and (vi) Witney constituency since May 2010; [91721]

(3) how many applications for the construction of commercial wind turbines have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in (i) South Cambridgeshire, (ii) Surrey Heath, (iii) Chingford and Woodford Green, (iv) Twickenham and (v) Runnymede and Weybridge constituency since May 2010. [91722]

Charles Hendry: This information is not available by constituency.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Devolution

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether a member or members of the Commission on the consequences of devolution for the House of Commons have been appointed to represent the English interest. [91622]

Mr Harper: The Commission's focus is on parliamentary business and procedure. Its members have therefore been appointed for their expertise in parliamentary, legal and constitutional matters. No one has been appointed to represent the particular interests of any one of the nations within the United Kingdom.

EU Action

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has had with discussions with other European politicians in an official capacity regarding *(a)* EU treaty change and *(b)* the EU generally since the EU summit of 9 December 2011; and where any such meetings were held. [91639]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I regularly speak to members of other European governments by telephone and in person on a range of issues including the EU, and have done so since 9 December.

During this period I met in person:

19 December: German Foreign Minister, Government offices, Westminster.

9 January: Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Vice Chancellor of Germany, Vice-President of the European Commission, European Commissioner for Education and the President of the Generalitat de Catalunya, Government offices, Westminster.

13 January: Irish President, Taoiseach, Tanaiste and Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Dublin).

18 January: Prime Minister of Italy, Government offices, Westminster.

19 January: Swedish Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister (one individual), Government offices, Westminster.

European Liberals

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he hosted the meeting of European Liberals on 9 January 2012 in his capacity as Deputy Prime Minister. [91637]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I hosted the meeting in my capacity as Leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether funding from the public purse was provided for the organisation and hosting of the meeting of European Liberals on 9 January 2012. [91638]

The Deputy Prime Minister: No funding was provided from the public purse for the organisation and hosting of the meeting of European Liberal Democrats in Government on 9 January 2012. All costs were met by the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91392]

The Deputy Prime Minister: For the purposes of corporate administration and financial management, my office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, the hon. Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd), on 23 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 46W.

TRANSPORT

Pedicabs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to address the issues raised by the operation of pedicabs; and whether she will discuss these issues with *(a)* Transport for London, *(b)* London local authorities and *(c)* the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association. [91234]

Mrs Villiers: Pedicabs outside London are already regarded in law as "hackney carriages" (taxis) and local licensing authorities have the power to license them under the existing legislation which applies to hackney carriages. However, in London, pedicabs do not fall within the legal classification of a hackney carriage and are therefore not subject to formal licensing controls.

Under the devolution arrangements introduced in the Greater London Authority Act 1999, the Mayor and Transport for London (TfL) are responsible for transport in the capital. Therefore, it would be for TfL and ultimately the Mayor to consider any matters relating to the operation of pedicabs in London.

As such the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), currently has no plans to discuss pedicabs with TfL, London local authorities and the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which EU *(a)* Directives, *(b)* Regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting her Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate she has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89689]

Norman Baker: The EU Directives requiring transposition which my Department is directly involved in implementing are:

Directive 2003/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 April 2003 amending Council Directive 91/671/EEC on the approximation of laws of the member states relating to compulsory use of safety belts in vehicles of less than 3.5 tonnes (one discrete aspect remaining);

Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on driving licences;

Directive 2008/57/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 on the interoperability of the rail system within the Community;

Commission Directive 2008/65/EEC of 27 June 2008 amending Directive 91/439/EEC on driving licences;

Directive 2008/110/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 amending Directive 2004/49/EC on safety of the Community's railways (Railway Safety Directive);

Council Directive 2009/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2009 implementing the Agreement concluded by the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) on the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, and amending Directive 1999/63/EC;

Directive 2009/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector and amending Council Directive 1999/35/EC and Directive 2002/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council;

Directive 2009/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the insurance of shipowners for maritime claims;

Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC;

Directive 2009/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 amending Directive 98/70/EC as regards the specification of petrol, diesel and gas oil and introducing a mechanism to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and amending Council Directive 1999/32/EC as regards the specification of fuel used by inland waterway vessels and repealing Directive 93/12/EEC;

Directive 2009/40/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers;

Commission Directive 2009/149/EC of 27 November 2009 amending Directive 2004/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards Common Safety Indicators and common methods to calculate accident costs;

Commission Directive 2010/36/EU of 1 June 2010 amending Directive 2009/45/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on safety rules and standards for passenger ships;

Commission Directive 2010/47/EU of 5 July 2010 adapting to technical progress Directive 2000/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the technical roadside inspection of the roadworthiness of commercial vehicles circulating in the Community;

Directive 2010/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 on the framework for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems in the field of road transport and for interfaces with other modes of transport;

Directive 2010/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from ports of the member states and repealing Directive 2002/6/EC;

Commission Directive 2011/18/EU of 1 March 2011 amending Annexes II, V and VI to Directive 2008/57/EC of the Parliament and of the Council on the interoperability of the rail system within the Community;

Commission Directive 2011/63/EU of 1 June 2011 amending, for the purposes of its adaptation to technical progress, Directive 98/70/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels;

Commission Directive 2011/75/EU of 2 September 2011 amending Directive 96/98/EC on marine equipment; and Directive 2011/72/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2011 amending Directive 2000/25/EC as regards the provision for tractors placed on the market under the flexibility scheme.

EU Regulations have direct effect and so do not require transposition although it may be necessary to introduce some related measures, for example to ensure that there are effective remedies and penalties.

All EU Directives that impact on business or have a major impact on the public sector will have a full impact assessment (IA) carried out on them prior to being transposed. The assessment will include analysing the impacts on the public purse and private sector. These IAs are available on the Department's website at the consultation stage and on the legislation.gov.uk website on enactment of the transposing measure.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy area which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany and the dates on which those regulations became EU law; and if she will make a statement. [90701]

Norman Baker: To the extent that the information requested is held by the Department, it is not in a systematic form. I therefore regret that providing an accurate answer would impose a disproportionate cost. However, this information is held on the European Commission's EUR-Lex website at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu

Railways: Southeastern

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on the performance of Southeastern Railway. [91889]

Norman Baker: Since 16 October 2011, the Department has received a total of seven representations about the performance of Southeastern—three from Members of Parliament and four from members of the public.

The representations covered delays to trains, crowding and compensation arrangements.

Motorways

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what proportion of the cost of completing the A14 J7-9 Kettering bypass widening and improvements between Huntingdon and Cambridge will fall beyond the comprehensive spending review period; [91703]

(2) what proportion of the cost of completing the additional managed motorway schemes M6 J10A-13 and M3 J2-4a will fall beyond the comprehensive spending review period; [91705]

(3) what proportion of the cost of completing the improvement schemes on the *(a)* A45/A46, *(b)* A453 and *(c)* M1/M6 intersection will fall beyond the comprehensive spending review period. [91706]

Mike Penning: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in his autumn statement in November 2011 funding for six additional Highways Agency major road schemes to be brought forward to start in this spending review period.

The expenditure planned across the six schemes represents an additional £800 million of investment, of which around 15% would fall in the next spending review period. All of these schemes are expected to make significant progress in the next three years and therefore contribute to stimulating economic growth.

The Highways Agency are working up detailed delivery timescales or the schemes announced to identify the most efficient start of work dates and we will make announcements on such timescales for each scheme in due course.

Motorways: Accidents

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with representatives of the emergency services on the proposed changes to the Incident and Support Unit service; and if she will publish the minutes of any such discussions. [90598]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency is responsible for operating and maintaining the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The Agency has undertaken liaison with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). Discussions have taken place at ACPO/Highways Agency Partnership Board (November 2011) and the North West Police Liaison meeting (September 2011). Relevant extracts of the minutes of these meetings will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

This liaison will be supplemented by the Agency's attendance at the Roads Policing Operations Forum on 19 January 2012.

Additionally, the Agency routinely engages with police at a regional level.

Railways: TransPennine Express

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish an indicative timetable for consultation on the arrangements for the replacement of the TransPennine rail franchise. [91716]

Mrs Villiers: On 5 August 2011, the then Secretary of State for Transport my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), arrangements to extend the TransPennine Express franchise. He confirmed that the new contract will end by March 2015, but could be terminated as early as April 2014, the exact timing of which is at the Department's sole discretion. We are currently considering how to make best use of these discretionary arrangements and will publish details of our plans to replace TransPennine Express (including the timetable for public consultation) in due course.

Railways: East Anglia

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any of her Department's guidance or tender documentation for the Greater Anglia franchise included information on the possibility of a reduction in fleet size; and if she will make a statement. [91227]

Mrs Villiers: Bidders for the Greater Anglia franchise were asked to consider a number of issues during the competition to award the contract. These included reducing ticketless travel, improving customer satisfaction and making the franchise more efficient.

Two of the three bidders demonstrated that the same level of services as is currently operated could be delivered with fewer trains. This is to be achieved by a combination of improvements to rolling stock availability and better matching of capacity to demand. So although nine units (36 carriages) will be returned, only 16 fewer carriages will be in service (four units). This is made possible by the more efficient deployment of rolling stock meaning that certain carriages are going to be more heavily used than is currently the case.

All of the new rolling stock vehicles built for the Greater Anglia franchise are being retained. The returned carriages will come from older stock.

Where capacity is reduced, the Department has made clear that this must not cause overcrowding for passengers. The criteria for determining what constitutes overcrowding for these purposes is set out in the National Rail Franchise Terms.

Where possible, the new operator will seek to increase capacity on services which are already experiencing overcrowding. So from the start of the franchise, all the most crowded services will have trains running at the maximum length possible within current infrastructure constraints. There are some services where infrastructure limitations such as platform lengths mean that train lengths cannot be increased at present. In such cases, the availability of additional rolling stock would not help relieve crowding.

Road Traffic Control: Advertising

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will reconsider her Department's plan to end the requirement to advertise temporary and permanent traffic regulation orders in local newspapers; [91381]

(2) what steps her Department plans to take to ensure people without internet access and others are aware of temporary and permanent traffic regulation orders in the absence of a requirement to advertise them in local newspapers. [91382]

Norman Baker: I plan to launch shortly a consultation to review the requirement placed on local authorities to publish their proposed traffic orders in local newspapers, and we will carefully consider all representations received. The Department proposes that local authorities should publicise their traffic regulation orders in a manner that they consider appropriate for the target audience.

Roads: Manchester Airport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the cost of completing the new link road to Manchester airport will fall beyond the comprehensive spending review period. [91704]

Norman Baker: The precise time scales for constructing and funding the link road have yet to be agreed.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if she will make a statement. [91402]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's policies that support this initiative are included in its business plans, with monitoring and evaluation taking place in the course of normal business.

Trains: Disability

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the extent of disabled access at train stations in *(a)* England *(b)* the south-west. [91347]

Norman Baker: Information about station facilities is a matter for the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) and full access audits, partly funded by the Department, of every station in Great Britain were carried out in 2009.

The Department and Network Rail have also looked at the facilities available at stations across the country in selecting projects for the Access for All programme, with 153 stations selected so far to receive an accessible route. More than 1,000 stations have also received more minor improvements. An additional mid-tier programme was also announced in December worth £37.5 million of further access improvements.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was paid to officials in his Department in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89700]

Mr Duncan: The following table shows for 2009-10 and 2010-11: *(a)* the amount paid in non-consolidated performance awards; *(b)* and *(c)* allowances and other payments made in addition to base salary and the monetary value of each. The figures provided do not include payments to cover the reimbursement of business expenses or the reimbursement of education fees.

Payment description	Total (£)	
	2009-10	*2010-11*
Non-consolidated Performance Award	1,426,279	1,258,519
Overseas Cost of Living Allowance	3,748,731	3,265,074
Overseas Hardship Allowance	3,624,147	3,593,182
Overseas Relocation Allowances	528,589	585,464
Representation Allowances	199,253	168,614
Overseas Maintenance Allowance	43,144	25,367
Market Allowances	322,343	311,555
Foreign Language Allowance	858	858
On Call Allowance	76,038	61,506
Inner London Dispersal	228	228
Hazardous Locations Allowance	98,504	107,222
Fire warden and Evacuation Pay	4,050	4,500

The following table provides details of the monetary value of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

2009-10

Ranking	*Description of payment*	*£ per annum*
1	Overseas Hardship Allowance	42,134
2	Overseas Hardship Allowance	41,185
3	Overseas Hardship Allowance	41,086
4	Overseas Hardship Allowance	39,276
5	Overseas Hardship Allowance	36,421
6	Overseas Hardship Allowance	36,421
7	Overseas Hardship Allowance	36,421
8	Overseas Hardship Allowance	36,421
9	Overseas Hardship Allowance	36,421
10	Overseas Hardship Allowance	36,421
11	Overseas Hardship Allowance	36,421
12	Overseas Hardship Allowance	36,421
13	Overseas Hardship Allowance	36,421
14	Overseas Hardship Allowance	36,421
15	Overseas Hardship Allowance	35,515
16	Overseas Hardship Allowance	34,128
17	Overseas Hardship Allowance	33,401
18	Overseas Cost of Living Allowance	31,730
19	Overseas Hardship Allowance	30,106
20	Overseas Hardship Allowance	29,847

2010-11

Ranking	*Description of payment*	*£ per annum*
1	Overseas Hardship Allowance	39,864
2	Overseas Hardship Allowance	39,864
3	Overseas Hardship Allowance	36,964
4	Overseas Hardship Allowance	30,207
5	Overseas Hardship Allowance	27,723
6	Overseas Hardship Allowance	27,723
7	Overseas Hardship Allowance	27,723
8	Overseas Hardship Allowance	27,475
9	Overseas Hardship Allowance	27,209
10	Overseas Hardship Allowance	26,576
11	Overseas Hardship Allowance	24,946
12	Overseas Hardship Allowance	23,164
13	Overseas Hardship Allowance	22,556
14	Overseas Cost of Living Allowance	21,879
15	Overseas Cost of Living Allowance	21,879
16	Overseas Hardship Allowance	21,382
17	Overseas Hardship Allowance	21,357
18	Overseas Cost of Living Allowance	20,407
19	Overseas Cost of Living Allowance	20,407
20	Overseas Cost of Living Allowance	20,407

Recruitment

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* officials and *(b)* advisers other than his political advisers have been awarded (i) short-term and (ii) permanent contracts outwith his Department's human resources policies. [91228]

Mr Duncan: No Department for International Development officials or advisers have been awarded short-term or permanent contracts outwith the Department's human resources policies.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91398]

Mr O'Brien: The Cabinet Office monitors progress on policies supporting the big society initiative across HMG.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is contributing to work on the big society through its support for: partnerships between schools in the UK and developing countries; the implementation of the International Citizen Service (ICS); and other programmes including work on the transparency guarantee.

To date, DFID has supported over 4,100 school partnerships. Through the pilot phase of the ICS, which gives young people from across the UK the opportunity to make a real difference to some of the world's poorest people while challenging and developing themselves, 1,250 volunteers are taking part and numbers are expected rise to 3,000 a year by 2015. Selection to ICS will be on the basis of demonstrated commitment to social action and/or community service, therefore promoting big society values.

DEFENCE

Official Hospitality

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what hospitality the *(a)* Chief of the Defence Staff, *(b)* Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, *(c)* Chief of the Air Staff, *(d)* Chief of the General Staff and *(e)* First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff accepted in 2011. [88310]

Mr Philip Hammond: This information is currently being compiled and will be published on the Ministry of Defence website in accordance with the Government's transparency agenda.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of training armed services personnel to provide security for the London 1012 Olympic games. [91263]

Nick Harvey: Security training costs incurred for training armed forces personnel to provide security for the London 2012 Olympic games will be contained within the core (Defence Capability) training budget. The Ministry of Defence is also undertaking some specific security assistance to the Home Office, and any training costs incurred there will be recovered from them as necessary.

Military Attaches: Argentina

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel are attached to the British embassy in Buenos Aires; what the rank of such personnel is; and what duties they perform. [91848]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence has two military personnel attached to the British embassy in Buenos Aires. The Defence Attache is a colonel, currently from the Royal Marines, and his deputy is a major, currently from the Army. They are accredited to Argentina and have non-resident accreditation to Uruguay.

The Defence section is attached to the ambassador's staff as representatives of Chief of the Defence Staff; as such they represent the MOD and UK armed forces. They pursue security co-operation policies and priorities to enhance defence diplomacy and provide bespoke military support to the embassy.

Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department are solely responsible for Overseas Territory affairs; and what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* specific responsibilities are of each such official. [91040]

Nick Harvey: While the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has oversight of the Government's relationship with the Overseas Territories, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a clear commitment and responsibility for their defence and security. Responsibility for this is spread across a number of operational, policy and regional areas within the MOD.

MOD has a small number of officials who work solely on Overseas Territory affairs at the Permanent Joint Headquarters. Their job titles are:

Assistant Head Permanent Joint Operating Bases, based at PJHQ;

Policy Officer Permanent Joint Operating Bases, based at PJHQ,

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers remained in the UK in each of the last five years; and what steps she is taking to reduce the numbers of such asylum seekers remaining in the UK after a decision has been made. [91521]

Damian Green *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* The number of open cases in the New Asylum Model, also known as the asylum Work in Progress case load (WiP) was published on the HM Government website in August 2011, reflecting June data. Of these, the number subject to removal action (ie failed asylum seekers) was 24,738.[1]

Data on numbers of failed asylum seekers are not available for previous years.

The agency works hard to overcome barriers to removal for all applicants whose appeal rights are exhausted.

We are making best use of charter flights to effect volume removals and reduce their unit cost. We have also expanded the range of countries to which we remove, including opening up routes to Sri Lanka. We continue to explore the feasibility of charter services to other logistically difficult destinations.

We are also enhancing relations with key foreign embassies and high commissions to improve the rate of travel document issuance. We continue to successfully execute re-documentation operations for a number of key nationalities.

[1] All cases that applied before 5 March 2007, belong to the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) and are not included in the New Asylum Model statistics. There were 21,600 of these in the live workflow open in September, as well as 98,000 cases in the controlled archive.

Asylum: Repatriation

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* nationality and *(b)* gender is of each person who was assisted to return home under the assisted voluntary return scheme operated by Refugee Action between 1 April 2011 and 1 January 2012; and to which country each person returned. [91493]

Damian Green: The following table shows the total number of assisted voluntary returns from the UK by nationality, destination and gender from April 2011 to September 2011.

Assisted voluntary returns from the United Kingdom[1,2], by nationality, destination[3] and gender, April 2011 to 30 September 2011[4]

Nationality	*Destination*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Afghanistan	Afghanistan	122	0	122
Albania	Albania	8	0	8
Algeria	Algeria	12	1	13

Assisted voluntary returns from the United Kingdom[1,2], by nationality, destination[3] and gender, April 2011 to 30 September 2011[4]

Assisted voluntary returns from the United Kingdom[1,2], by nationality, destination[3] and gender, April 2011 to 30 September 2011[4]

Nationality	*Destination*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Angola	Angola	1	3	4
Argentina	Argentina	0	1	1
Bangladesh	Bangladesh	63	0	63
Bhutan	Bhutan	1	0	1
Bolivia	Bolivia	6	8	14
Botswana	Botswana	0	3	3
Brazil	Brazil	39	28	67
British overseas citizens	Hong Kong	2	1	3
Burma	Burma	2	0	2
Cameroon	Cameroon	2	2	4
Chile	Chile	1	0	1
China	Bolivia	1	0	1
China	China	123	22	145
Colombia	Colombia	5	2	7
Costa Rica	Costa Rica	2	2	4
Dominica	Dominica	0	1	1
Ecuador	Ecuador	3	0	3
Egypt	Egypt	7	4	11
Gambia	Gambia	6	2	8
Georgia	Georgia	1	1	2
Ghana	Ghana	12	3	15
Grenada	Grenada	0	2	2
Guinea	Guinea	2	0	2
Guyana	Guyana	1	0	1
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	0	2	2
India	India	111	12	123
Iran	Afghanistan	1	0	1
Iran	Iran	10	5	15
Iran	Iraq	34	0	34
Iraq	Iraq	57	6	63
Ivory Coast	Ivory Coast	1	1	2
Jamaica	Jamaica	9	11	20
Japan	Japan	1	3	4
Jordan	Jordan	1	2	3
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	0	1	1
Kenya	Kenya	2	2	4
Korea (North)	Korea (North)	1	1	2
Lebanon	Lebanon	1	0	1
Malawi	Malawi	9	20	29
Malaysia	Malaysia	5	5	10
Mali	Mali	2	0	2
Mauritius	Mauritius	7	4	11
Mexico	Mexico	1	0	1
Moldova	Moldova	3	3	6
Mongolia	Mongolia	12	10	22
Morocco	Morocco	2	0	2
Namibia	Namibia	3	0	3
Nepal	Nepal	8	0	8
Nigeria	Nigeria	37	27	64
Nigeria	Ukraine	1	0	1
Occupied Palestinian Territories	Lebanon	1	0	1
Pakistan	Pakistan	145	15	160
Pakistan	Other and unknown	2	0	2
Paraguay	Paraguay	1	1	2
Philippines	Philippines	1	2	3
Russia	Mongolia	1	0	1
Russia	Russia	4	0	4
Senegal	Senegal	1	0	1
Somalia	Tanzania	1	3	4
South Africa	South Africa	9	13	22
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	60	13	73
Sri Lanka	India	4	0	4
St Kitts and Nevis	St Kitts and Nevis	1	0	1
Sudan	Sudan	3	0	3
Syria	Syria	1	3	4
Syria	Iraq	3	0	3
Tanzania	Tanzania	4	0	4
Thailand	Thailand	0	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	2	3	5
Tunisia	Tunisia	1	0	1
Turkey	Turkey	3	0	3
Uganda	Uganda	6	5	11
Ukraine	Ukraine	1	2	3
Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	2	1	3
Venezuela	Venezuela	1	0	1
Vietnam	Vietnam	5	0	5
Zambia	Zambia	2	2	4
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	21	25	46
Zimbabwe	Mozambique	1	0	1
Grand total		1,028	290	1,318

[1] Figures include dependants.

[2] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[3] Destination as recorded on source database.

[4] Provisional figures. Figures will under-record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

Note:

People leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by Refugee Action (prior to April 2011, run by the International Organization for Migration). May include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action had been initiated.

Aviation: Security

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on unmanned HM Revenue and Customs points in UK airports. [84608]

Damian Green: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) owns the policy for revenue collection at UK airports. In August 2009 when Customs and Revenue functions at the border were transferred from HMRC to the UK Border Agency (UKBA) the responsibility for operational delivery of this function passed to UKBA.

The UK Border Agency provides either a physical presence to deal with passengers who need to speak to an officer, or a telephone contact point to link the passenger to an on-duty officer. HMRC public notices for the travelling public include guidance relating to these telephones which are normally situated in the red channel or in advance of the customs exit.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs points at UK airports were completely unmanned in each of the last five years. [84609]

Damian Green: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is responsible for the policy for revenue collection at UK airports. In August 2009 when Customs and Revenue functions at the border were transferred from HMRC to the UK Border Agency (UKBA) the responsibility for operational delivery of this function passed to UKBA.

The UK Border Agency does not hold data on the number of occasions when there has not been a physical UKBA presence in the customs channels at a port or airport.

Film Policy

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the report of the Film Policy Review, what plans her Department has to create an offence of recording a film in a cinema theatre. [91503]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Government will read the Film Policy Review report with interest and will provide their response to the recommendations in due course. However the Government note that legislation currently prohibits the recording of a film in a cinema theatre. Camcording of films within cinemas is already an offence under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 and the Fraud Act 2006. A number of individuals have been successfully convicted under the Fraud Act 2006 for unlawfully recording in a cinema theatre and in one case an initial custodial sentence was passed.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of full-time equivalent staff in her Department are engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if she will make a statement. [91101]

Damian Green: Home Office workforce plans and pay data indicate that around 80% of the current workforce is engaged in *(a)* frontline services and *(b)* around 20% is engaged in corporate or back office services.

The Home Office does not formally distinguish between frontline and back office functions.

Detention Centres: Death

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK citizens have died in asylum detention centres in each year from 1995. [91296]

Damian Green: The requested information is not available for all the years.

The number of non-UK citizens who have died while held solely under Immigration Act powers in immigration removal centres, short-term holding facilities and pre-departure accommodation is a subset of published data on those people leaving detention. Information on people leaving detention, by reason, has only been published for 1 January 2005 to 30 September 2006 and for 1 January 2010 onwards. A subset of published information on people leaving detention shows that there were:

two deaths of non-UK citizens in 2005;

one death between 1 January and 30 September 2006;

two deaths in 2010; and

three deaths between 1 January and 30 September 2011.

These figures exclude those in police cells, Prison Service establishments, short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for fewer than 24 hours), and those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants. The figures include those held for non-asylum reasons.

Data for other years have not been collected centrally and could only be found at disproportionate cost by investigating individual case records.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of people leaving detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers, within Immigration Statistics. October to December 2011 detention figures will be published on 23 February 2012 and will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office science, research and statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Extradition: Egypt

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were extradited from the UK to Egypt in *(a)* each year between 1982 and 2010 and *(b)* 2011 to date; in respect of which offences they were extradited; and if she will place details of these cases in the Library; [91690]

(2) how many applications have been made by the Egyptian Government for the extradition of Egyptian nationals from the UK in each year since 1982; and if she will place details of these cases in the Library. [91691]

Damian Green: From 1982 to date, no one has been extradited from the UK to Egypt. It is a matter of long-standing policy and practice that the UK will neither confirm nor deny the existence of an extradition request made or received by this country before an arrest is made pursuant to the request.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Egyptian Government on *(a)* establishing an extradition treaty between the UK and Egypt and *(b)* other matters relating to extradition. [91696]

Damian Green: UK and Egyptian authorities have had a number of discussions on judicial co-operation issues including extradition in recent years.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 12 December 2011 regarding Mr M. Akram. [91713]

Damian Green: I refer the right hon. Member to my letter of 23 January 2012.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Immigration plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 12 December 2011 regarding Mrs M. Ademosu. [91714]

Damian Green: I refer the right hon. Member to my letter of 23 January 2012.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 12 December 2011 regarding Mr A. G. Tarob. [91715]

Damian Green: I refer the right hon. Member to my letter of 23 January 2012.

Operation RAMP

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of Operation RAMP. [91240]

James Brokenshire: Operation RAMP is an Interpolled operation which is still under way, and has involved a number of UK organisations. Details of the costs to date are not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for *(a)* illegal trade in reptiles and amphibians and *(b)* irregular paperwork were made following Operation RAMP in the UK. [91241]

James Brokenshire: This information is not held centrally.

Oxycodone: Imports

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for the (1) Home Department when she expects to publish the Government's formal policy to replace the interim policy on the importation of oxycodone; [91584]

(2) for what reasons her Department's temporary policy on the licensing of oxycodone restricts imports from within the EEA. [91583]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), is expected to announce next steps on the policy relating to the importation of oxycodone in March. The temporary policy on the importation of oxycodone recognises the threat posed by the movement of Class A controlled substances while the formal policy is developed.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what her most recent estimate is of the number of sniffer dogs which will be available for security purposes during the London 2012 Olympic games; and if she will make a statement; [91018]

(2) how many sniffer dogs she expects to be operating in London on an average day during the London 2012 Olympic games; and how many hours she expects each dog to work each day. [91019]

James Brokenshire: The daily number of explosive dog detection teams working across the Olympic theatre of operations will vary day to day based on operational demand and scheduling but it is anticipated that up to 55 teams will be scheduled per day working in support of the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG), on venue security. The explosive dog detection teams schedule will allow for days off and the capacity to "surge" during peak demand days.

This is in addition to the deployment of sniffer dogs from the police service and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). The Minister for the Armed Forces, the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), has said that no military working dogs will be withdrawn from Afghanistan in order to support this commitment. The police expect to deploy 100 explosive detection dogs on a peak day during the games.

A LOCOG explosive dog detection team (one handler and up to two dogs) will be typically scheduled on shift between eight and 12 hours. The operational task/rest rotation cycle is generally 20 minutes on 20 minutes off. Police sniffer dogs and their handlers will typically work an eight-hour shift, which will include rests during searches.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals awarded grants under the Facilitated Returns Scheme *(a)* have been sentenced to a period in custody in a UK prison and *(b)* have a criminal conviction for an offence committed in the UK. [89757]

Damian Green: All foreign national offenders who are non-EEA nationals who have been convicted and are serving or have served a custodial sentence in a UK prison and are accepted on the Facilitated Returns Scheme (FRS) will be granted an award of payment. This includes circumstances where they have served their sentence while on remand.

Prostitution: Greater London

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many sex workers in the London area have reported attacks on themselves to the police since the creation of Specialist Crime Division 9 in the Metropolitan police: [91443]

(2) what has been the cost of investigating allegations of trafficking and raids and closures of brothels in the London area since the creation of Specialist Crime Division 9 in the Metropolitan police. [91442]

Lynne Featherstone: The information requested is not held centrally.

Vehicle Number Plates: Fraud

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of number plate cloning were reported to the police in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England and *(c)* West Yorkshire in each of the last three years. [91297]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

JUSTICE

Convictions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the conviction rate was for each offence in *(a)* Crown courts and *(b)* magistrates courts in each year between 1997 and 2011 inclusive; [91505]

(2) what the conviction rate was in *(a)* Crown courts and *(b)* magistrates courts in each year between 1997 and 2011; [91512]

(3) how many cases were brought before *(a)* Crown courts and *(b)* magistrates courts in each year since 1997; [91572]

(4) how many cases for each offence type were heard in *(a)* Crown courts and *(b)* magistrates courts in each year since 1997. [91573]

Mr Blunt: I have placed in the House Library information on the number of defendants; tried and found guilty at the Crown court, or proceeded against and found guilty at magistrates courts, by offence type and conviction ratio, in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2010 (latest available).

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in May, 2012.

Criminal Proceedings

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases brought before magistrates courts had *(a)* no previous convictions, *(b)* one previous conviction, *(c)* between two and five previous convictions, *(d)* between six and 10 previous convictions and *(e)* more than 10 previous convictions in 2011; [91571]

(2) how many cases brought before the Crown courts had *(a)* no previous convictions, *(b)* one previous conviction, *(c)* between two and five previous convictions, *(d)* between six and 10 previous convictions and *(e)* more than 10 previous convictions in 2011. [91574]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows offenders sentenced for indictable offences in 2010, in England and Wales, by court type and previous convictions, as recorded on the police national computer. These are the latest available figures for a calendar year and are derived from the data used to produce table A7.8 in Criminal Justice System Statistics, England and Wales 2010. The figures relate to court cases resulting in a sentence for at least one indictable offence; figures for court cases that did not result in a guilty outcome are not available.

The previous criminal history figures relate to separate sentencing occasions at any time in the offender's criminal history; where an offender was sentenced on the same occasion for several offences it is the primary offence that has been counted. These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large-scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Offenders sentenced for indictable offences by court type and previous convictions, 2010[1], England and Wales

Number of previous convictions	*Magistrates courts*	*The Crown court*	*All courts[2]*
First time offenders	42,360	22,798	65,716
One previous conviction	24,281	9,443	33,857
Two to five previous convictions	51,753	18,805	70,810
Six to 10 previous convictions	35,707	13,104	48,957
11 or more previous convictions	88,782	25,590	114,780
All offenders (100%)	242,883	89,740	334,120

[1] It is known that in a small proportion of cases the police may incorrectly record on the PNC a magistrates court code instead of a crown court code.

[2] The all courts figures include cases where the court is not recorded.

Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* nationality and *(b)* gender is of each suspected victim of trafficking referred to the trafficking victim support scheme operated by the Salvation Army in November 2011; in which region each of the suspected victims was found; and which agency referred each case to the scheme. [91504]

Mr Blunt: In November 2011 there were 44 referrals to the Government-funded support service for adult victims of human trafficking in England and Wales administered by the Salvation Army. Details are provided in the following table.

Nationality	*Gender*	*Region*	*Referring organisation*
Albanian	Female	South east	Legal representative
Albanian	Female	South west	Self-referral
Albanian	Female	Wales	Legal representative
British	Female	South east	NGO
British	Male	West Midlands	NGO
British	Male	East	Police
Cameroonian	Female	South east	NGO
Czech	Male	North west	NGO
Chinese	Female	Yorkshire	NHS
Chinese	Female	South east	Social services
Ghanaian	Female	East	NGO
Ghanaian	Female	South east	Self-referral
Guinean	Female	East	Prison service
Hungarian	Male	South east	Police
Hungarian	Female	East	Police
Italian	Female	Yorkshire	NGO
Lithuanian	Male	South east	NGO
Nigerian	Male	South east	NGO
Nigerian	Female	East	Self-referral
Nigerian	Female	South east	Self-referral
Nigerian	Female	South east	Social services
Nigerian	Female	South east	UKHTC
Polish	Male	Wales	NGO
Polish	Male	Yorkshire	NGO
Polish	Male	Yorkshire	NGO
Polish	Male	Yorkshire	NGO
Polish	Male	Yorkshire	NGO
Polish	Male	South east	NGO

Nationality	*Gender*	*Region*	*Referring organisation*
Polish	Male	Yorkshire	NGO
Romanian	Female	South east	NGO
Romanian	Female	Yorkshire	Police
Romanian	Female	South east	Police
Romanian	Female	South east	Police
Slovakian	Male	South east	NGO
Slovakian	Female	South east	NGO
Slovakian	Female	Yorkshire	Police
Slovakian	Male	North west	Police
Slovakian	Female	North west	Police
Ugandan	Female	South east	NGO
Ugandan	Female	South east	UKBA
Vietnamese	Female	West Midlands	Legal representative
Vietnamese	Female	South east	Police
Vietnamese	Male	South east	Social services
Vietnamese	Female	South east	Social services

Legal Aid Scheme

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Legal Services Commission spent on legal aid in each local authority in England and Wales *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita in each of the last 10 years. [91568]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Legal Services Commission

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* mean and *(b)* median award was given by the Legal Services Commission to each case start (i) nationally and (ii) in each local authority area in each financial year since 2007-08. [91552]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Offences: Costs

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of each type of offence type committed. [90789]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Home Department.

The Home Department's online report 30/05 published in 2005 estimated the cost of crimes committed against individuals and households, which are broken down by offence type and into a range of cost categories, some of which cover public sector expenditure or the use of public sector resources. These estimates can be found via the following link on page 15 (Table 4.1).

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.Uk/20100413151441/
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr3005.pdf

A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Sentencing

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those in prison were given custodial sentences of *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between 12 months and five years, *(d)* between five years and 10 years and *(e)* over 10 years on 1 October of each year between 1995 and 2011. [90479]

Mr Blunt: Data are held centrally on the prison population on the last day of each month, so figures are not available for 1 October each year. Additionally, annual trends are typically compared using the 30 June figures for each year. The following table shows figures as at 30 June of each year from 1995 to 2011.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Proportion of the prison population by specific sentence length, 1995-2011. England and Wales 30 June

	Less than or equal to 6 months		*Greater than 6 months less than 12 months*		*12 months to less than or equal to 5 years*		*Greater than 5 years to less than or equal to 10 years*		*Greater than 10 years (excl. indeterminates)*		*Indeterminates*		*Recalls*		*Unrecorded 4 years or more (excl. indeterminates)*[1]	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
1995	4,339	11	2,210	6	20,893	54	6,515	17	1,617	4	3,289	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1996	4,582	11	2,376	6	23,635	55	7,103	17	1,729	4	3,489	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997	4,929	10	2,475	5	27,604	57	8,014	16	1,931	4	3,721	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998	5,099	10	2,511	5	29,740	57	8,724	17	2,151	4	3,934	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999	5,190	10	2,190	4	28,296	55	9,114	18	2,297	4	4,206	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000	6,389	12	2,405	5	27,928	53	9,346	18	2,430	5	4,593	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	6,386	12	2,156	4	28,678	53	9,613	18	2,526	5	4,810	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	5,447	10	2,349	4	31,270	55	10,292	18	2,766	5	5,147	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	5,971	10	2,209	4	31,579	53	11,232	19	2,982	5	5,419	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	5,751	9	2,306	4	32,221	5	11,875	19	3,176	5	5,594	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	6,009	10	2,225	4	32,301	52	12,457	20	3,305	5	5,882	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	5,960	9	2,525	4	31,648	50	12,615	20	3,383	5	7,274	11	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	5,165	8	2,462	4	32,435	49	12,453	19	3,537	5	9,481	14	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	5,873	9	2,866	4	32,477	48	11,963	18	3,562	5	11,382	17	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	5,114	7	2,465	4	33,141	48	11,439	17	3,695	5	12,521	18	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009[2]	5,131	7	2,433	4	28,659	42	10,568	15	3,530	5	12,182	18	5,958	9	n/a	n/a
2010	5,343	8	2,502	4	29,173	41	11,051	16	3,801	5	13,134	19	5,350	8	517	1

Proportion of the prison population by specific sentence length, 1995-2011. England and Wales 30 June

	Less than or equal to 6 months		*Greater than 6 months less than 12 months*		*12 months to less than or equal to 5 years*		*Greater than 5 years to less than or equal to 10 years*		*Greater than 10 years (excl. indeterminates)*		*Indeterminates*		*Recalls*		*Unrecorded 4 years or more (excl. indeterminates)*[1]	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
2011	5,441	8	2,373	3	28,573	40	11,557	16	4,038	6	13,644	19	5,646	8	563	1

n/a = Not available

[1] Sentence length is not recorded centrally for a small proportion of prisoners. For these cases we have estimated the broad sentence length band; however, they cannot be allocated to a more detailed sentence length band.

[2] Due to the introduction of a new prison IT system the 2010 prison population data are now taken from a different source and recalls are shown separately (previously recall data were included in the relevant sentence length band). The 2009 figures from both the old and new systems have been provided to aid comparison.

Sentencing: North Wales

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were sentenced to an immediate custodial sentence of less than six months for each type of offence by the courts in North Wales in each of the last five years. [91507]

Mr Blunt: Persons sentenced to immediate custody at all courts in the North Wales police force area by sex, offence type and length of sentence, from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 calendar year are planned for publication in May 2012.

Persons sentenced to immediate custody in North Wales police force area by sex, offence type and sentence length, 2006-2010[1,2]

Sex	*Offence type*	*Sentence length*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Males	Violence against the person	Less than six months	65	28	53	43	35
		Six months or longer	154	162	165	167	165
	Sexual offences	Less than six months	4	4	5	3	5
		Six months or longer	32	28	43	28	39
	Burglary	Less than six months	32	32	32	33	34
		Six months or longer	77	62	90	94	79
	Robbery	Less than six months	—	1	—	—	—
		Six months or longer	30	29	26	37	24
	Theft and handling offences	Less than six months	100	95	127	159	177
		Six months or longer	23	25	23	46	19
	Fraud and forgery	Less than six months	9	11	21	23	20
		Six months or longer	6	25	29	31	20
	Criminal damage	Less than six months	20	15	27	10	11
		Six months or longer	10	15	8	11	9
	Drug offences	Less than six months	11	16	9	19	16
		Six months or longer	60	74	64	133	100
	Other indictable offences	Less than six months	40	34	53	98	101
		Six months or longer	81	87	79	101	106
	Indictable motoring offences	Less than six months	4	3	3	5	—
		Six months or longer	15	15	20	22	9
	Summary non-motoring offences	Less than six months	158	151	178	252	200
		Six months or longer	9	7	12	13	5
	Summary motoring offences	Less than six months	94	79	63	49	37
		Six months or longer	5	3	2	1	—
	All offences	Less than six months	537	469	571	694	636
		Six months or longer	502	532	561	684	575
		Total immediate custody	1,039	1,001	1,132	1,378	1,211
Females	Violence against the person	Less than six months	1	7	2	2	1
		Six months or longer	7	9	8	11	9
	Sexual offences	Less than six months	—	—	—	—	—
		Six months or longer	—	2	—	—	—
	Burglary	Less than six months	—	2	1	2	—
		Six months or longer	2	3	8	5	6
	Robbery	Less than six months	—	—	—	—	—
		Six months or longer	2	1	2	1	4

Persons sentenced to immediate custody in North Wales police force area by sex, offence type and sentence length, 2006-2010[1,2]

Sex	*Offence type*	*Sentence length*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
	Theft and handling offences	Less than six months	15	16	22	17	14
		Six months or longer	—	2	1	6	1
	Fraud and forgery	Less than six months	2	—	7	6	3
		Six months or longer	1	1	2	6	2
	Criminal damage	Less than six months	—	1	1	—	—
		Six months or longer	1	—	4	3	—
	Drug offences	Less than six months	—	2	2	2	—
		Six months or longer	4	5	2	11	6
	Other indictable offences	Less than six months	3	4	7	11	10
		Six months or longer	4	4	1	2	5
	Indictable motoring offences	Less than six months	—	—	—	—	—
		Six months or longer	—	2	—	—	—
	Summary non-motoring offences	Less than six months	16	15	12	13	12
		Six months or longer	—	—	2	—	1
	Summary motoring offences	Less than six months	3	—	—	3	—
		Six months or longer	—	—	—	—	—
	All offences	Less than six months	40	47	54	56	40
		Six months or longer	21	29	30	45	34
		Total immediate custody	61	76	84	101	74
All persons[3]	Violence against the person	Less than six months	66	35	55	45	36
		Six months or longer	161	171	173	178	174
	Sexual offences	Less than six months	4	4	5	3	5
		Six months or longer	32	30	43	28	39
	Burglary	Less than six months	32	34	33	35	34
		Six months or longer	79	65	98	100	85
	Robbery	Less than six months	—	1	—	—	—
		Six months or longer	32	30	28	38	28
	Theft and handling offences	Less than six months	115	111	149	177	191
		Six months or longer	23	27	24	52	20
	Fraud and forgery	Less than six months	11	11	28	29	23
		Six months or longer	7	26	31	37	22
	Criminal damage	Less than six months	20	16	28	10	11
		Six months or longer	11	15	12	14	9
	Drug offences	Less than six months	11	18	11	21	16
		Six months or longer	64	79	66	144	106
	Other indictable offences	Less than six months	43	38	60	110	111
		Six months or longer	85	91	80	103	111
	Indictable motoring offences	Less than six months	4	3	3	5	—
		Six months or longer	15	17	20	22	9
	Summary non-motoring offences	Less than six months	174	166	190	266	213
		Six months or longer	9	7	14	13	6
	Summary motoring offences	Less than six months	97	79	63	52	37
		Six months or longer	5	3	2	1	—
	All offences	Less than six months	577	516	625	753	677
		Six months or longer	523	561	591	730	609
		Total immediate custody	1,100	1,077	1,216	1,483	1,286

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[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes those cases where the defendant's sex was 'not stated', therefore the 'Males' and 'Females' figures may not match the 'All Persons' totals.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Stalking

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* perpetrators and *(b)* victims he estimates will be referred to the National Stalking Clinic in 2012. [87529]

Lynne Featherstone: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Home Department.

The Home Department does not hold this information.

The National Stalking Clinic is an independent clinic set up by the North London Forensic Service of the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust.

Youth Custody: Ethnic Groups

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of self-harm of people in each *(a)* age and *(b)* ethnic group there have been in each secure training centre in each month since 2008. [91384]

Mr Blunt: The tables show the number of incidents of self-harm of young people (aged 10 to 17) in each age group (Table 1) and ethnic group (Table 2) for each secure training centre by month from 2008-09 to 2009-10. This information has been provided by the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

These data come from monthly returns from secure establishments to the YJB. Due to the way these data are collected it is not possible to tell if the same young people are involved in multiple incidents throughout the year. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Data for 2010-11 will be published on 26 January 2012 in the 2010-11 Youth Justice Statistics publication, which will be available on the Ministry of Justice website.

Table 1: Number of self-harm incidents in each secure training centre (STC) by age group and month from April 2008 to March 2010

	2008								
Age group	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Age 10 to 14									
Hassockfield	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Medway	6	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	2
Oakhill	2	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	3
Rainsbrook	6	5	2	2	2	0	4	5	2
Age 15 to 17									
Hassockfield	2	4	5	7	7	4	3	1	2
Medway	3	5	3	11	11	7	6	6	0
Oakhill	31	16	10	3	3	1	0	0	1
Rainsbrook	7	5	2	5	5	5	13	10	11

	2009												2010		
Age group	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Age 10 to 14															
Hassockfield	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	1	2	2	3	3	1	0	6	2	1	0	0	1	0	1
Oakhill	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	2	8	10	2	0	0	0	0
Age 15 to 17															
Hassockfield	1	2	5	2	6	4	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0
Medway	4	6	8	10	9	5	6	6	2	3	2	0	0	2	2
Oakhill	1	6	1	4	2	4	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2
Rainsbrook	14	7	3	3	5	3	5	5	6	13	7	7	7	3	5

Table 2: Number of self-harm incidents in each secure training centre (STC) by ethnic group and month from April 2008 to March 2010

	2008								
Ethnic group	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
White									
Hassockfield	2	4	6	8	8	4	3	1	1
Medway	8	6	10	8	8	7	6	6	2
Oakhill	22	14	9	3	3	0	0	0	4
Rainsbrook	11	8	4	6	6	4	17	15	13
Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)									
Hassockfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Medway	1	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Number of self-harm incidents in each secure training centre (STC) by ethnic group and month from April 2008 to March 2010

	2008								
Ethnic group	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Oakhill	11	2	5	0	0	1	2	0	0
Rainsbrook	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0

	2009												2010		
Ethnic group	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
White															
Hassockfield	2	3	4	1	7	4	2	4	0	0	2	2	2	0	0
Medway	3	5	9	13	12	3	3	11	4	3	2	0	1	2	3
Oakhill	2	5	1	4	2	4	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2
Rainsbrook	16	5	2	3	6	3	5	7	9	19	9	5	7	3	4
Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)															
Hassockfield	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	2	3	1	0	0	3	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Oakhill	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	2	0	0	1

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Government Assistance

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* micro, *(b)* small and *(c)* medium-sized enterprises in Newton Abbott constituency have received assistance from schemes administered by his Department since May 2010. [90298]

Mr Prisk: The total number, of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises that have received assistance from Government schemes is not available. However where information is held at constituency level on the number of such businesses supported under the Government's Solutions for Business portfolio, this is set out in the following table. (The EU definition is for micro—less than 10 people; small—less than 50 people; and medium—less than 250 people).

Product	*Newton Abbott*	*Comment*
Manufacturing Advisory Service	Micro = 6	Figures are 1 May 2010-13 January 2012
	Small = 7	—
	Medium = 6	—
	Total = 19	—
Access to finance	Seven companies with a drawn down total of £0.67 million.	These figures are for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme only
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	Small = 1	—
	Medium = 1	—

For other schemes under the Solutions for Business portfolio, such as Rural Development Programme for England, Helping your Business Grow Internationally, and Work Place Training (including apprenticeships), Knowledge Transfer Networks, information is only available at national level.

In addition, the Government have funded the provision of a range of online information and assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises through Business Link, including a regional advisory service, which was managed by England's Regional Development Agencies but closed on 25 November 2011. Information on beneficiaries by constituency is not available. However, from Business Link information provided by the South West Regional Development Agency, for the reporting periods April 2010 to March 2011 and April 2011 to end November 2011, the number of small and medium-sized business assisted in the South West of England between April 2010 and end November 2011 is 91,011.

Energy: Conservation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans UK Green Investments has to invest in non-domestic energy efficiency projects. [91803]

Mr Prisk: UK Green Investments (UKGI) will seek to drive investment in both small-scale and large-scale non-domestic energy efficiency projects, with a budget of up to £100 million for investment in this sector in 2012/13. The team is currently developing investment opportunities. In the period before state aid approval for the Green Investment Bank is received, UKGI will invest on a commercial basis or under existing programmes that already have state aid approval. The UKGI team will ensure all deals are properly scrutinised and compliant with state aid rules, with a dedicated Investment Committee assessing individual investments against the double bottom line of financial returns and green impact.

Exports

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized enterprises have exported to international markets in each year since 1997. [90179]

Mr Prisk: Data on the total number of enterprises exporting to international markets are not currently available for the UK. Although HMRC publishes data on the number of firms which export goods, these figures exclude firms which export services. Until recently these figures also excluded firms whose exports to the EU were below a threshold level and firms which did not export outside the EU. Until very recently these figures were not available by firm size, so that estimates of the number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) which exported goods were unavailable. Recent analysis by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) identified 101,712 SME goods exporters in 2009. This count included firms exporting below the EU threshold.

Although data on the total number of SME exporters including both goods and services are not available from HMRC, business surveys can provide a basis for estimating the number of SME employers who export. Of these, the BIS Small Business Survey is the best source of evidence about SMEs, including very small firms, and provides some evidence of trends since 2003 when the survey began. Estimates of the number of SME exporters are provided in the following table, based on results of these surveys, and figures for the number of SME employers at the time of each survey. The table focuses on SME employers only, because exporting is less frequent among firms with no employees, and is also more difficult to estimate reliably.

Most of the fluctuation year to year observed in the table is due simply to statistical variation in the survey estimates of the percentages which export, and is therefore not significant. However, there is some evidence that the number of SME employers who export has risen over the period. This is consistent with findings from evidence reviewed in recent BIS Economics Paper No 5—"Internationalisation of Innovative and High Growth SMEs" (2010) available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/economics-and-statistics/docs/10-804-bis-economics-paper-05

Small Business survey

Date of fieldwork	*Number of SMEs with employees*[1]	*Estimated number of SME employer exporters*
2003	1,172,575	245,000
2005	1,165,790	245,000
2006	1,185,345	200,000
2007	1,213,620	290,000
2008	1,225,455	295,000
2010	1,201,395	276,000

[1] Business population estimates (BIS) available at:
http://www.bis.gov.uk/analysis/statistics/business-population-estimates

Green Investment Bank

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what form of support will be provided by the Green Investment Bank for the commercial development of wave and tidal technology; [91707]

(2) for what reason innovative energy projects such as wave and tidal technology were not identified as a priority sector for the Green Investment Bank over the Comprehensive Spending Review period; and what consideration he has given to identifying this as such; [91708]

(3) whether he plans to issue guidance to the Green Investment Bank identifying specific products, such as debt finance, designed to de-risk investments in wave and tidal technology. [91711]

Mr Prisk: The selection of the initial five priority sectors was made against the criteria of green impact, additionality and commercial investability in mature infrastructure over the period to 2015 as well as complementing and not duplicating other Government policies including other financial support. As a relatively early-stage technology compared with other green sectors, marine energy displayed relatively low commercial investability in mature infrastructure within the time frame considered. Other Government policies and finance initiatives are focused on prioritising financial support for marine energy at its current stage of development. Government and the GIB board will reconsider priority sectors periodically.

While at least 80% of the funds committed by the bank over the spending review period will be invested in the priority sectors, the intention is for the bank to be given an overall broad remit to focus on green infrastructure. This would include the marine energy sector. All potential investments will be assessed by the bank against green impact, sound finances and additionality.

The bank will be given the freedom to develop and deploy a wide range of products within the parameters set by the terms of its state aid approval.

Green Investment Bank: Fossil Fuel Levy

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what the £103 million of funding from the Scottish Fossil Fuel Levy, which his Department announced in November 2011 would be made available to the Green Investment Bank, will be spent on; [91709]

(2) whether he has given consideration to vary the £103 million of funding from the Scottish Fossil Fuel Obligation Levy, which his Department announced in November 2011 would be made available to the Green Investment Bank, to support the commercialisation of wave and tidal technology. [91710]

Mr Prisk: The £103 million from the Scottish Fossil Fuel Levy will contribute towards the total of £3 billion of funds for the Green Investment Bank (GIB) and it will not be directed towards any particular sector.

The statement by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), to the House in December 2011 set out the initial priority areas in which the GIB would invest.

Our intention is for the bank to be given a broad remit, which would include the marine energy sector, with Ministers and the board agreeing priority sectors periodically and the bank making individual investment decisions.

The bank will be given the operational freedom to make individual investments designed to maximise returns against the double bottom line of green impact and financial return.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students were registered as being in higher education in each parliamentary constituency in 2011. [88823]

Mr Willetts: Information on the number of English-domicile enrolments to UK higher education institutions is shown in the following table. Equivalent figures for enrolments to higher education courses at further education colleges are not available. Figures are provided for the academic year 2010/11. Information for the 2011/12 academic year will become available from January 2013.

English-domicile[1] enrolments by parliamentary constituency[2]—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2010/11

Parliamentary constituency	*Total*
Aldershot	2,685
Aldridge-Brownhills	2,215
Altrincham and Sale West	4,295
Amber Valley	2,040
Arundel and South Downs	2,990
Ashfield	1,870
Ashford	3,270
Ashton-under-Lyne	2,450
Aylesbury	3,695
Banbury	3,460
Barking	4,385
Barnsley Central	2,085
Barnsley East	1,820
Barrow and Furness	2,805
Basildon and Billericay	2,260
Basingstoke	2,860
Bassetlaw	2,535
Bath	3,680
Batley and Spen	2,445
Battersea	3,745
Beaconsfield	3,725
Beckenham	3,375
Bedford	3,345
Bermondsey and Old Southwark	5,225
Berwick-upon-Tweed	2,090
Bethnal Green and Bow	4,805
Beverley and Holderness	3,575
Bexhill and Battle	2,820
Bexleyheath and Crayford	2,640
Birkenhead	2,560
Birmingham, Edgbaston	3,830
Birmingham, Erdington	2,595
Birmingham, Hall Green	4,705
Birmingham, Hodge Hill	3,280
Birmingham, Ladywood	4,250
Birmingham, Northfield	2,595
Birmingham, Perry Barr	3,785
Birmingham, Selly Oak	3,545
Birmingham, Yardley	2,730
Bishop Auckland	2,295
Blackburn	3,105
Blackley and Broughton	3,050
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	2,070
Blackpool South	1,790
Blaydon	2,470
Blyth Valley	2,075
Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	1,955
Bolsover	1,815
Bolton North East	2,905
Bolton South East	2,790
Bolton West	3,435
Bootle	3,085
Boston and Skegness	2,240
Bosworth	2,665
Bournemouth East	2,995
Bournemouth West	2,415
Bracknell	3,210
Bradford East	2,565
Bradford South	2,075
Bradford West	2,980
Braintree	2,560
Brent Central	5,330
Brent North	5,505
Brentford and Isleworth	5,050
Brentwood and Ongar	3,160
Bridgwater and West Somerset	2,450
Brigg and Goole	2,060
Brighton, Kemptown	2,605
Brighton, Pavilion	4,425
Bristol East	2,535
Bristol North West	3,265
Bristol South	2,570
Bristol West	6,205
Broadland	2,610
Bromley and Chislehurst	3,135
Bromsgrove	3,210
Broxbourne	2,620
Broxtowe	3,370
Buckingham	3,990
Burnley	2,610
Burton	3,040
Bury North	3,105
Bury South	3,590
Bury St Edmunds	3,655
Calder Valley	3,460
Camberwell and Peckham	6,135
Camborne and Redruth	2,485
Cambridge	4,415
Cannock Chase	2,450
Canterbury	4,395
Carlisle	2,175
Carshalton and Wallington	3,210
Castle Point	1,830
Central Devon	2,755
Central Suffolk and North Ipswich	3,215
Charnwood	3,285
Chatham and Aylesford	2,585
Cheadle	3,890
Chelmsford	3,830
Chelsea and Fulham	3,595
Cheltenham	3,665
Chesham and Amersham	3,940
Chesterfield	2,430
Chichester	3,310
Chingford and Woodford Green	3,505
Chippenham	3,240
Chipping Barnet	5,045
Chorley	3,375
Christchurch	2,040
Cities of London and Westminster	4,190
City of Chester	3,760
City of Durham	3,195
Clacton	1,590
Cleethorpes	2,110
Colchester	3,835
Colne Valley	3,870
Congleton	3,370
Copeland	2,165
Corby	3,080
Coventry North East	3,545

English-domicile[1] enrolments by parliamentary constituency[2]—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2010/11

Parliamentary constituency	*Total*
Coventry North West	3,580
Coventry South	4,245
Crawley	2,500
Crewe and Nantwich	2,965
Croydon Central	3,995
Croydon North	5,780
Croydon South	4,440
Dagenham and Rainham	3,040
Darlington	3,065
Dartford	2,840
Daventry	3,265
Denton and Reddish	2,145
Derby North	3,430
Derby South	3,030
Derbyshire Dales	2,815
Devizes	2,870
Dewsbury	3,000
Don Valley	2,235
Doncaster Central	2,445
Doncaster North	1,835
Dover	2,630
Dudley North	2,050
Dudley South	1,925
Dulwich and West Norwood	5,275
Ealing Central and Acton	5,120
Ealing North	4,860
Ealing, Southall	4,065
Easington	2,015
East Devon	2,660
East Ham	5,935
East Hampshire	3,280
East Surrey	3,205
East Worthing and Shoreham	2,295
East Yorkshire	2,960
Eastbourne	2,845
Eastleigh	2,795
Eddisbury	3,055
Edmonton	4,440
Ellesmere Port and Neston	2,755
Elmet and Rothwell	2,985
Eltham	3,195
Enfield North	3,815
Enfield, Southgate	4,175
Epping Forest	2,920
Epsom and Ewell	3,685
Erewash	2,290
Erith and Thamesmead	4,245
Esher and Walton	4,160
Exeter	3,205
Fareham	2,970
Faversham and Mid Kent	2,785
Feltham and Heston	4,065
Filton and Bradley Stoke	2,985
Finchley and Golders Green	5,465
Folkestone and Hythe	2,990
Forest of Dean	2,270
Fylde	2,995
Gainsborough	2,850
Garston and Halewood	3,245
Gateshead	2,510
Gedling	2,680
Gillingham and Rainham	2,950
Gloucester	2,915
Gosport	2,575
Grantham and Stamford	3,375
Gravesham	2,680
Great Grimsby	1,570
Great Yarmouth	2,070
Greenwich and Woolwich	4,560
Guildford	3,815
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	5,370
Hackney South and Shoreditch	5,345
Halesowen and Rowley Regis	2,420
Halifax	2,590
Haltemprice and Howden	3,410
Halton	2,595
Hammersmith	4,675
Hampstead and Kilburn	5,250
Harborough	3,880
Harlow	2,275
Harrogate and Knaresborough	3,890
Harrow East	4,830
Harrow West	4,660
Hartlepool	3,065
Harwich and North Essex	2,735
Hastings and Rye	2,705
Havant	2,070
Hayes and Harlington	3,635
Hazel Grove	2,320
Hemel Hempstead	2,975
Hemsworth	2,150
Hendon	5,385
Henley	3,935
Hereford and South Herefordshire	2,805
Hertford and Stortford	3,925
Hertsmere	3,650
Hexham	3,180
Heywood and Middleton	3,170
High Peak	3,110
Hitchin and Harpenden	4,190
Holborn and St Pancras	5,890
Hornchurch and Upminster	3,065
Hornsey and Wood Green	5,975
Horsham	3,270
Houghton and Sunderland South	2,295
Hove	3,495
Huddersfield	3,025
Huntingdon	3,460
Hyndburn	2,475
Ilford North	4,435
Ilford South	5,895
Ipswich	3,035
Isle of Wight	3,590
Islington North	4,680
Islington South and Finsbury	4,025
Jarrow	2,265
Keighley	2,735
Kenilworth and Southam	3,455
Kensington	4,065
Kettering	2,795
Kingston and Surbiton	4,685
Kingston upon Hull East	1,920
Kingston upon Hull North	2,780
Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	2,135
Kingswood	2,310
Knowsley	2,825
Lancaster and Fleetwood	2,980

English-domicile[1] enrolments by parliamentary constituency[2]—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2010/11

Parliamentary constituency	*Total*
Leeds Central	3,230
Leeds East	2,275
Leeds North East	4,670
Leeds North West	3,255
Leeds West	2,575
Leicester East	3,890
Leicester South	4,245
Leicester West	3,035
Leigh	2,860
Lewes	2,735
Lewisham East	4,275
Lewisham West and Penge	4,370
Lewisham, Deptford	5,455
Leyton and Wanstead	4,500
Lichfield	3,180
Lincoln	3,060
Liverpool, Riverside	4,080
Liverpool, Walton	2,435
Liverpool, Wavertree	3,620
Liverpool, West Derby	2,855
Loughborough	3,025
Louth and Horncastle	2,435
Ludlow	2,635
Luton North	3,355
Luton South	3,335
Macclesfield	3,570
Maidenhead	3,735
Maidstone and The Weald	3,185
Makerfield	2,605
Maldon	2,560
Manchester Central	4,225
Manchester, Gorton	3,780
Manchester, Withington	4,460
Mansfield	2,125
Meon Valley	2,990
Meriden	3,810
Mid Bedfordshire	3,555
Mid Derbyshire	3,105
Mid Dorset and North Poole	2,710
Mid Norfolk	2,605
Mid Sussex	3,585
Mid Worcestershire	2,860
Middlesbrough	3,305
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	3,620
Milton Keynes North	4,420
Milton Keynes South	4,785
Mitcham and Morden	3,865
Mole Valley	3,555
Morecambe and Lunesdale	2,440
Morley and Outwood	2,605
New Forest East	2,425
New Forest West	2,205
Newark	3,010
Newbury	3,300
Newcastle upon Tyne Central	2,990
Newcastle upon Tyne East	3,435
Newcastle upon Tyne North	2,905
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,940
Newton Abbot	2,400
Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford	2,100
North Cornwall	2,435
North Devon	2,700
North Dorset	2,940
North Durham	2,260
North East Bedfordshire	3,380
North East Cambridgeshire	2,255
North East Derbyshire	2,295
North East Hampshire	3,500
North East Hertfordshire	3,205
North East Somerset	2,950
North Herefordshire	2,735
North Norfolk	1,965
North Shropshire	3,235
North Somerset	3,505
North Swindon	2,180
North Thanet	2,520
North Tyneside	2,710
North Warwickshire	2,350
North West Cambridgeshire	3,670
North West Durham	2,585
North West Hampshire	2,900
North West Leicestershire	2,500
North West Norfolk	2,135
North Wiltshire	3,060
Northampton North	2,645
Northampton South	2,945
Norwich North	2,215
Norwich South	3,375
Nottingham East	3,060
Nottingham North	1,835
Nottingham South	3,115
Nuneaton	2,625
Old Bexley and Sidcup	2,580
Oldham East and Saddleworth	3,095
Oldham West and Royton	2,795
Orpington	2,920
Oxford East	4,840
Oxford West and Abingdon	5,220
Pendle	2,650
Penistone and Stocksbridge	2,645
Penrith and The Border	2,520
Peterborough	2,775
Plymouth, Moor View	2,160
Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport	3,915
Poole	2,475
Poplar and Limehouse	4,390
Portsmouth North	2,460
Portsmouth South	3,045
Preston	2,960
Pudsey	2,945
Putney	3,570
Rayleigh and Wickford	2,355
Reading East	4,035
Reading West	3,195
Redcar	3,175
Redditch	2,390
Reigate	3,220
Ribble Valley	3,855
Richmond (Yorks)	3,920
Richmond Park	5,415
Rochdale	3,230
Rochester and Strood	2,950
Rochford and Southend East	2,650

English-domicile[1] enrolments by parliamentary constituency[2]—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2010/11

Parliamentary constituency	*Total*
Romford	2,720
Romsey and Southampton North	3,045
Rossendale and Darwen	3,275
Rother Valley	2,490
Rotherham	2,040
Rugby	3,000
Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner	4,025
Runnymede and Weybridge	2,940
Rushcliffe	3,815
Rutland and Melton	3,350
Saffron Walden	3,550
Salford and Eccles	3,095
Salisbury	3,055
Scarborough and Whitby	3,210
Scunthorpe	1,940
Sedgefield	2,625
Sefton Central	3,960
Selby and Ainsty	2,995
Sevenoaks	3,095
Sheffield Central	4,070
Sheffield South East	2,070
Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough	2,720
Sheffield, Hallam	4,415
Sheffield, Heeley	2,620
Sherwood	2,280
Shipley	3,215
Shrewsbury and Atcham	3,800
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	2,580
Skipton and Ripon	3,330
Sleaford and North Hykeham	3,715
Slough	4,250
Solihull	3,940
Somerton and Frome	3,220
South Basildon and East Thurrock	2,195
South Cambridgeshire	4,540
South Derbyshire	2,875
South Dorset	2,410
South East Cambridgeshire	3,875
South East Cornwall	3,030
South Holland and The Deepings	2,290
South Leicestershire	3,140
South Norfolk	2,990
South Northamptonshire	3,995
South Ribble	3,910
South Shields	2,105
South Staffordshire	3,145
South Suffolk	2,800
South Swindon	2,620
South Thanet	2,925
South West Bedfordshire	3,075
South West Devon	3,300
South West Hertfordshire	4,165
South West Norfolk	2,270
South West Surrey	3,710
South West Wiltshire	2,645
Southampton, Itchen	2,330
Southampton, Test	3,015
Southend West	2,655
Southport	3,470
Spelthorne	2,425
St Albans	3,810
St Austell and Newquay	2,830
St Helens North	2,675
St Helens South and Whiston	3,050
St Ives	2,940
Stafford	3,610
Staffordshire Moorlands	2,525
Stalybridge and Hyde	2,605
Stevenage	2,800
Stockport	2,670
Stockton North	2,905
Stockton South	4,470
Stoke-on-Trent Central	2,395
Stoke-on-Trent North	2,485
Stoke-on-Trent South	2,450
Stone	3,270
Stourbridge	2,645
Stratford-on-Avon	3,025
Streatham	4,900
Stretford and Urmston	3,555
Stroud	3,250
Suffolk Coastal	2,950
Sunderland Central	3,135
Surrey Heath	3,425
Sutton and Cheam	3,395
Sutton Coldfield	4,270
Tamworth	2,705
Tatton	3,170
Taunton Deane	3,555
Telford	2,230
Tewkesbury	3,070
The Cotswolds	3,200
The Wrekin	2,970
Thirsk and Malton	2,945
Thornbury and Yate	2,700
Thurrock	2,705
Tiverton and Honiton	2,515
Tonbridge and Malling	3,170
Tooting	4,335
Torbay	2,620
Torridge and West Devon	3,065
Totnes	2,510
Tottenham	5,435
Truro and Falmouth	3,840
Tunbridge Wells	3,690
Twickenham	4,790
Tynemouth	3,770
Uxbridge and South Ruislip	3,300
Vauxhall	4,945
Wakefield	2,335
Wallasey	2,900
Walsall North	1,855
Walsall South	2,915
Walthamstow	4,365
Wansbeck	2,220
Wantage	4,065
Warley	2,810
Warrington North	2,945
Warrington South	3,990
Warwick and Leamington	3,550
Washington and Sunderland West	2,220
Watford	3,975
Waveney	2,390
Wealden	3,370
Weaver Vale	3,025

English-domicile[1] enrolments by parliamentary constituency[2]—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2010/11

Parliamentary constituency	*Total*
Wellingborough	2,880
Wells	3,125
Welwyn Hatfield	3,425
Wentworth and Dearne	1,925
West Bromwich East	2,435
West Bromwich West	2,040
West Dorset	3,065
West Ham	6,665
West Lancashire	3,405
West Suffolk	2,370
West Worcestershire	3,255
Westminster North	4,275
Westmorland and Lonsdale	2,865
Weston-Super-Mare	2,820
Wigan	2,875
Wimbledon	4,190
Winchester	3,845
Windsor	3,490
Wirral South	2,910
Wirral West	3,195
Witham	2,430
Witney	3,805
Woking	3,510
Wokingham	4,210
Wolverhampton North East	2,480
Wolverhampton South East	2,215
Wolverhampton South West	3,365
Worcester	3,120
Workington	1,990
Worsley and Eccles South	2,715
Worthing West	2,210
Wycombe	3,860
Wyre and Preston North	3,825
Wyre Forest	2,450
Wythenshawe and Sale East	2,910
Yeovil	2,775
York Central	3,675
York Outer	3,325
Total	1,719,430

[1] Domicile refers to the country of a student's permanent or home address prior to entry to their course.

[2] The figures in the answer do not include enrolments where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

Notes:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Land Registration

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 791-2W, on Land Registry, what steps he is taking to register land that is unregistered; and if he will make a statement. [91418]

Mr Davey: Nearly 80% of land in England and Wales, including most urban land, is now registered with Land Registry with over 23 million registered titles. The registered area has increased from 45% in 2004, when data on geographic coverage first became available. This growth is principally attributable to Land Registry persuading landowners of the benefits of voluntary first registration. A large percentage of the land that remains unregistered is in rural areas or includes large estates or public landholdings.

Work on achieving a comprehensive land register continues. Every first registration will result in greater coverage. Land Registry currently offer up to 25% discount on the fee on registration of voluntary registrations. In addition, new legislation has been introduced, under the Land Registration Act 2002 (Amendment) Order 2008, which ensures that when certain land transactions are undertaken, land that previously did not need to be registered, now must be included on the register.

Public Houses

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to change the relationship between large pub companies and their licensees; and if he will make a statement. [91407]

Mr Davey: The Government's plans for a new, self-regulatory regime that will change the relationship between large pub companies and their licensees are set out in our response to the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee's report on pub companies:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8222/8222.pdf

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the self-regulatory regime for small community pubs; and if he will make a statement. [91646]

Mr Davey: The Government consider that the previous system of self-regulation in the pub industry was inadequate. That is why, in November 2011, it secured an industry commitment to implement a tough new self-regulatory system, including strengthening the Industry Framework Code, making it legally binding and establishing an independent conciliation and arbitration service to resolve disputes between pubcos and licensees.

Public Houses: Rural Areas

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* the Campaign for Real Ale, *(b)* the British Beer and Pub Association, *(c)* the Federation for Small Businesses and *(d)* the Forum of Private Business to discuss ways of (i) lessening the regulatory burden on and (ii) improving economic conditions for rural pubs; and if he will make a statement. [91245]

Mr Davey: The meetings I have had with representatives of the pub industry and other stakeholders, at which I discussed matters relating to the Department's policy responsibility for competition, are given in the following table.

Other policy matters relating to pubs are the responsibility of a range of Departments including the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Her Majesty's Treasury and the Home Office.

	Attendees
1 December 2010	Greg Mulholland MP; Emily Ryan and Jonathan Mail, (Campaign for Real Ale) CAMRA; Simon Clarke and Kate Nicholls, (Independent Pub Confederation) IPC
16 February 2011	Brigid Simmonds, Chief Executive British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA)
7 March 2011	Martin Horwood MP
8 June 2011	Greg Mulholland MP; Mike Benner, CAMRA
18 July 2011	Martin Horwood MP; Mike Benner and Jonathan Mail, CAMRA
12 October 2011	Brigid Simmonds, British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA); Ralph Findlay (BBPA and Marston's); Simon Townsend (Enterprise Inns); Roger Whiteside (Punch Taverns)
1 November 2011	Martin Horwood MP
3 November 2011	Simon Longbottom (Greene King); Paul Wells (Independent Family Brewers of Britain and Charles Wells); Jonathan Neame (Shepherd Neame); Stuart Bateman (Bateman's); William Lees-Jones (JW Lees); David Turner (Young's)
9 November 2011	Greg Mulholland MP and Jo Swinson MP
21 November 2011	Tim Sykes, Kate Nicholls and Nick Bish, ALMR
23 November 2011	Greg Mulholland MP, Tim Farron MP, Don Foster MP, Martin Horwood MP, David Ward MP, Jo Swinson MP
1 December 2011	Brigid Simmonds, British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA); Ralph Findlay (BBPA and Marston's)

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of expenditure from the Regional Growth Fund in 2011-12; and what use he intends to make of any monies unspent at the end of that period. [88651]

Mr Prisk: Funding for the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) has been profiled for the spending review period. Officials are working to ensure that this year's RGF is fully disbursed.

Unfair Dismissal: Compensation

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons his plans to consult on compensated no-fault dismissals do not include firms with 10 or more employees. [90981]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), announced in November that the Government would seek evidence on the idea of introducing compensated no-fault dismissal for micro firms because we believe that the smallest businesses are less likely to have access to human resources (HR), and legal advice, and may be less confident in applying detailed procedures. This announcement was alongside a range of radical proposals aimed at cutting unnecessary demands on businesses of all sizes while safeguarding workers' rights.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 26 January 2012

DEFENCE

Argentina: Military Alliances

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* extent of military links with the Government of Argentina are. [91821]

Nick Harvey: The Defence section in the British embassy in Buenos Aires liaises with Argentine defence officials at appropriate levels in support of UK interests. There is no current bi-lateral defence activity.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* Army and *(c)* Royal Air Force personnel there were in (i) May 2010 and (ii) December 2011; and how many he expects there will be in the armed forces of (A) the UK and (B) other NATO member states in May 2015. [91351]

Mr Robathan: The requested information, where available, is presented in the following table:

Full-time UK armed forces strength by service

	1 May 2010	*1 December 2011*
Naval service	39,230	36,960
Army	113,150	110,460
RAF	44,380	41,580

Notes:
1. Full-time UK armed forces comprises all UK regular forces, Gurkhas and all full-time reserve service personnel.
2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

As was made clear in the announcement on the strategic defence and security review, the Royal Navy will decrease to a total of some 30,000, the Army to some 95,000 and the RAF to some 33,000 by 2015.

We do not hold comprehensive information on the armed forces of NATO member states on a comparable basis.

Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the Safety Improvement Notice issued on 26 May 2010 by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator was formally closed; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the Safety Improvement Notice and the letter notifying closure of the Notice. [86746]

Peter Luff: The Safety Improvement Notice was closed by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) on 24 June 2011 and replaced by two targeted Safety Directions. Copies of both the Safety Improvement Notice, and the closure letter (incorporating the Safety Directions) have been placed in the Library of the House. I am withholding small sections of the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Departmental Manpower

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many university graduates the armed forces have recruited since the end of the 2010-11 academic year. [90905]

Mr Robathan: Records indicate that between August 2011 and 18 January 2012, 623 graduates have entered the armed forces.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which posts have been filled or created within his Department to oversee work on the military covenant in the last 12 months. [91640]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 25 January 2012]:* The armed forces covenant is a high priority for the Government, and this is reflected in the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s business plan. Resources to take forward work on the covenant have been made available through the reallocation of existing duties across MOD head office and the services. Overseeing this work is the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel and Training).

Ex-servicemen: Education

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what funding was provided by his Department to service leavers studying for *(a)* a first full level 3 or *(b)* a first higher education qualification free from tuition fees in each of the last four financial years; [89432]

(2) how many service leavers studied for *(a)* a first full level 3 or *(b)* a first higher education qualification free from tuition fees in each of the last four financial years. [89434]

Mr Robathan: The MOD promotes lifelong learning among members of the armed forces, and this is encouraged through the Learning Credits schemes. The Enhanced Learning Credit scheme is designed to complement the Standard Learning Credits scheme by providing larger scale help to personnel who qualify, with a single payment of £1,000 or £2,000 (dependent upon length of service) in each of a maximum of three separate financial years, to help pay towards the cost of higher-level learning. It remains available for up to 10 years after discharge.

The opportunity to undertake full time higher education free from tuition fees was introduced in July 2008, and is widely advertised and briefed to all eligible service leavers. Fewer than five (rounded) service leavers entered full time education in 2010 at a cost to the MOD of some £420. About 10 (rounded) service leavers entered full time education in September 2011 at a cost to the MOD of some £21,000.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on steps to mitigate the effects of changes made to public sector pay in the autumn statement. [85018]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 5 December 2011]*: The Secretary of State for Defence holds regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on a wide range of issues, including in relation to the autumn statement.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electricity Generation

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the National Grid on the use of STOR aggregators. [91956]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change received a letter from the Canterbury Club in November 2011, setting out their assessment of the role of aggregators in Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR), which is procured by National Grid in its role as electricity system operator. DECC officials also received the Canterbury Club's full report 'Money for Nothing, A Review of National Grid's contracting criteria'.

In responding to the Canterbury Club, the Secretary of State received advice from National Grid on the contracts and monitoring processes in place to ensure STOR contracts can be delivered upon and the penalties if they are not.

DECC officials have also met with aggregators during discussions on electricity market reform. The participation of aggregators in STOR was discussed at some of those meetings.

Energy: Meters

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum premium being paid by customers using pre-payment meters for (i) gas and (ii) electricity compared to customers paying by direct debit. [91675]

Charles Hendry: The following table shows provisional estimates for 2011 energy bills based on data published in DECC's Quarterly Energy Prices:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/prices/prices.aspx

£

		Pre-payment meters (PPM)	*Direct debit (DD)*	*Difference (PPM—average DD)*
Electricity	Average	483	436	47
	Maximum	524	—	88
Gas	Average	743	700	43
	Maximum	782	—	82
Total	Average	1,226	1,136	90
	Maximum	1,306	—	170

Note:
Bills are based on annual electricity consumption of 3,300 kWh and annual gas consumption of 18,000 kWh.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what measures are in place to monitor the costs passed on to consumers of the smart meter roll-out. [91680]

Charles Hendry: The Government have published projections of costs and benefits to consumers of smart meter roll-out in an impact assessment, which was most recently updated in August 2011. The impact assessment identified a net benefit of £7.3 billion to the UK, with overall costs of £11.3 billion and benefits of £18.6 billion. This document will continue to be updated as understanding in these areas is developed.

Costs and benefits will continue to be monitored throughout roll-out. Further detail on the process for doing this will be set out in the benefits and evaluation plan, due to be published in spring 2012.

Nuclear Power Stations

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects new nuclear power stations to be operational. [92047]

Charles Hendry: It is up to energy companies to construct, operate and decommission new nuclear power stations. Government will facilitate investment to new nuclear by removing unnecessary obstacles. Energy companies have set out plans to build up to 16 GW of new nuclear power by 2025 and EDF have submitted a planning application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission for Hinkley Point with an indicative timetable for the first reactor to be operational from 2019.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on his decision to reduce the feed-in tariff for solar PV. [91739]

Chris Huhne: Ministers and officials meet regularly with a range of stakeholders from the solar photovoltaic (PV) industry. Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website.

The recent consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV closed on 23 December 2011. Over 2,300 responses were received and are being analysed prior to the publication of a full Government response to the consultation in the coming weeks.

Warm Home Discount Scheme

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage energy companies to ensure cancer patients have access to the warm home discount scheme. [91731]

Gregory Barker: We have worked closely on the warm home discount scheme with energy companies and organisations including those representing cancer patients. I am pleased that a number of suppliers are now working in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support under the scheme to provide support to cancer patients in fuel poverty. I fully support these initiatives.

Wind Power

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to publish individual constraint payments made to wind farm companies via the balancing mechanism. [91736]

Charles Hendry: Details of individual constraint payments made to wind farms via the balancing mechanism are already published by Elexon, an independent subsidiary of National Grid which handles the payments. These show that less than 10% of total constraint payments made in 2011 were to wind farms.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on how many occasions he visited *(a)* operas, *(b)* museums and *(c)* London theatres on (i) official business and (ii) as an official guest in 2011. [88816]

Mr Vaizey: In 2011 the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), visited seven operas, 10 museums and five London theatres on official business or as an official guest.

Broadband

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with Telford and Wrekin council on improving broadband services in their area; and what response was provided to any such discussions. [91780]

Mr Vaizey: Following discussions with Broadband Delivery UK, the local broadband plan covering Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin has been approved and the councils are working together on the implementation of the plan.

Copyright: Internet

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether he has made an assessment of the potential effect of the proposed US legislation, the *(a)* Stop Online Piracy Act and *(b)* Protect IP Act on free expression and circulation of ideas within British culture and media; [91612]

(2) what *(a)* discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues and *(b)* representations he has made to the US Government on the proposed US legislation, the Stop Online Piracy Act and Protect IP Act. [91613]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has made no assessment or received representations on the effect on the UK of measures contained in the US Stop Piracy Online Act.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department engaged in delivering *(a)* front line and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91091]

John Penrose: This Department employs 487 full-time equivalent staff who through flexible resourcing deliver both back-office and front line services according to business need.

Football

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent progress he has made on reforming football governance. [86795]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport and I are continuing to meet with the Football Association, the Premier League and the Football League collectively to hear their progress on the reforms Government have called for in their response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee football governance inquiry. The football authorities have until the end of February before they need to go public with their proposals.

Libraries

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport who in his Department is responsible for identifying and advising him on potential problems with the provision of library services by local authorities, including whether a library authority may be in breach of its statutory duties under the Libraries Act 1964. [91892]

Mr Vaizey: Public library services provided across England are monitored by this Department's officials who engage directly with library authorities. They also monitor correspondence sent to the Department, monitor websites and press articles, and engage in meaningful discussion with organisations that have current information about public library service provision. These include Arts Council England, the Society of Chief Librarians and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether his Department has set any criteria for intervention in a local library authority; [91893]

(2) whether it is his policy to intervene in local authorities where a substantial programme of library closures is undertaken without *(a)* an adequate assessment of local needs and *(b)* a strategic libraries plan. [91894]

Mr Vaizey: I endorse the analysis and approach adopted by the inquiry held in 2009 into the proposed closure of libraries by Wirral metropolitan borough council. When authorities consider reorganising library services it is important that they have assessed the local needs of their communities and have prepared a strategic plan for their library services. Library authorities must provide a service which best meets local needs within available resources. Where there is evidence that this may not be happening, dialogue will commence with the local authority concerned. Use of statutory powers, including those regarding intervention, will be exercised on a case by case basis only when all other avenues have been exhausted.

Radio: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects Radio Cymru and Radio Wales to be available on digital radio to listeners in North Wales. [91770]

Mr Vaizey: The local multiplex licence for North Wales was awarded by Ofcom to Muxco Wales Ltd in June 2008. However, the launch of the multiplex, which would provide the necessary DAB platform for Radio Cymru and Radio Wales, has been delayed. The Government and Ofcom are working with Muxco to ensure that the North Wales multiplex launches as soon as is practicable.

Wedgwood Museum

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings he has had with ministerial colleagues on the Wedgwood Museum. [91518]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not had any discussions or meetings with ministerial colleagues on the Wedgwood Museum. In my capacity as Minister for Culture, I met with a number of interested parliamentarians about the Wedgwood Museum, including: a meeting with Lord Howarth of Newport and the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent South on 24 October 2011; and a meeting with Baroness Rawlings, Lord Howarth of Newport, Lord Clancarty and the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent South on 20 December 2011.

I addressed Parliament in an Ordinary Debate about the future of the Wedgwood Museum in Westminster Central Hall on 19 October 2010 and Baroness Rawlings, the Department's Lords spokesperson, answered an oral parliamentary question on the issue on 29 November 2010 in the House of Lords. Departmental officials have had discussions with officials at the Department for Work and Pensions, the Pension Protection Fund, the Attorney General's Office and the Charity Commission about the Wedgwood Museum.

I will continue to hold meetings with interested parties until this issue is resolved.

TRANSPORT

Buses: Testing

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the MOT failure rate was for bus and coach operators in Vehicle and Operator Services Agency area 3, including *(a)* Go North East, *(b)* Stagecoach Cumbria, *(c)* Stagecoach North East, *(d)* Snaiths Coaches, *(e)* Scarlet Band Motor Services, *(f)* Redby Travel, *(g)* Kingsley Coaches, *(h)* Henry Cooper, *(i)* First Choice Travel, *(j)* Classic Coaches, *(k)* Arriva North East and *(l)* A-Line Coaches in each of the last five years. [91662]

Mike Penning: MOT failure results are not available by operator as the data is commercially in-confidence.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency's North East Area MOT results for bus and coach operators (PSVs) are displayed in the following table:

Test result	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Pass	2,838	2,863	3,068	3,150	3,178
Fail	648	553	542	455	455
PRS	477	455	390	360	300
Prohibitions	11	21	19	16	15
Total tests	3,974	3,892	4,019	3,981	3,948

Note:

PRS results are Pass after Rectification at Station and represent minor defects such as loose screws/bolts, bulbs out etc. that could be repaired or replaced safely at the test site with little difficulty. They are then tested again for that defect alone after the repair on the same day and a pass certificate is issued.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency last audited each bus and coach operator in area 3, including *(a)* Go North East, *(b)* Stagecoach Cumbria, *(c)* Stagecoach North East, *(d)* Snaiths Coaches, *(e)* Scarlet Band Motor Services, *(f)* Redby Travel, *(g)* Kingsley Coaches, *(h)* Henry Cooper, *(i)* First Choice Travel, *(j)* Classic Coaches, *(k)* Arriva North East and *(l)* A-line Coaches. [91686]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency carries out visits to operator premises to check their systems for maintaining vehicle conditions and compliance with other measures (e.g. drivers' hours) which will include checking vehicles and records.

Information on the visits by an individual operator is commercially in-confidence.

The total number of vehicles inspected at operator visits in VOSA's North East area are set out in the following table:

	Number
2006-07	310
2007-08	277
2008-09	224
2009-10	236
2010-11	72

Driving: Licensing

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will estimate the length of time required to update *(a)* driving licences and *(b)* Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency records when recording a change in medical circumstances; [92232]

(2) whether the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency sets targets in respect of the return of driving licences submitted as a consequence of changed medical circumstances; [92233]

(3) what representations she has received on the amount of time the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency holds driving licences submitted as a consequence of changed medical circumstances. [92234]

Mike Penning: Changes in medical circumstances notified to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) require investigations to establish if the individual is fit to drive. Once these are completed a licence is either issued straight away, or the individual is informed that it has been refused or revoked. Records are updated as soon as licensing decisions are made. Where there is a change in medical circumstances the DVLA currently responds to 87% of its cases within 71 days. Just under half are dealt with within 14 days. Medical cases are often complex and require external specialists to provide information which can have an impact on response times.

The Secretary of State for Transport has set targets for consideration of notifications of changed medical circumstances. These are:

1. to complete 88% of medical applications, where sufficient medical information is provided with the initial application, within 15 days; and
2. to complete 85% of medical applications, where further information is required, within 90 days.

In 2011, DVLA exceeded both targets. Where sufficient medical information was provided with the original application, 97% of driving licences were returned within 15 days. Where further medical inquiries were needed 90% of applications were returned within 90 working days.

In 2011, the DVLA received 322 representations about the time taken to update the driving licence when medical inquiries were required.

Ports

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to support the regeneration or expansion of small existing or unused ports; and if she will make a statement. [91777]

Mike Penning: The Government encourages sustainable port development that can contribute to long-term economic growth and prosperity locally, regionally and nationally.

Railways: Cotswold Line

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether she plans to propose revised specifications for the Cotswold line franchise to increase the frequency of trains from Great Malvern to London; [86939]

(2) what additional services she plans to specify in the new North Cotswold line franchise invitation to tender; [86941]

(3) when she plans to publish an invitation to tender for the North Cotswold line franchise from 2013. [86942]

Mrs Villiers: The Department is currently running public consultation on the specification for the new Great Western franchise which includes the North Cotswold line. This can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-36/

The new franchise is expected to start in spring 2013.

Travel: Trains

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on the frequency with which the format of passenger announcements on trains and in stations is reviewed. [91249]

Mrs Villiers: The Department does not hold this information as the format of passenger announcements is a matter for train and station operators.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Charities: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* Action on Addiction, *(b)* Adoption UK, *(c)* the Adoption and Fostering Information Line, *(d)* the Child Bereavement Charity, *(e)* Well Child and *(f)* each of East Anglia's children's hospices in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [89769]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* No monies have been paid to these organisations during the current or previous financial year.

Homelessness: Support

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department provided to Crisis in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [90456]

Grant Shapps: The following table shows the total allocations of funding provided to Crisis in each of the last five years of which the majority was allocated as homelessness grant (revenue).

	Crisis (£)
2007-08 (Capital)	155,000
2008-09	0
2009-10	150,000
2010-11	2,350,000
2011-12	4,000,000

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91093]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not have staff engaging in frontline service delivery; rather its role is strategic and focused on policy development and implementation.

As of 31 December 2011, the Department for Communities and Local Government had 1,917 staff with a full-time equivalent of 1,859 under Office for National Statistics definitions of employment. However, this includes 40 full-time equivalent staff on paid leave of absence, primarily on maternity leave.

Excluding the staff on paid leave of absence, 1,424 full-time equivalent staff were engaged in policy development and implementation, and the remaining 396 full-time equivalent staff were engaged in support services.

Domestic Waste

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many councils have bid for specific funding to enable them to collect household waste weekly; and how many such councils currently have collection periods longer than a week; [91656]

(2) when he expects to make an announcement about the allocation of funding to individual councils in respect of weekly bin collections. [91657]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 811W, to the hon. Member for Wakefield (Mary Creagh).

Homelessness

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people sleeping rough in England in each month since June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [91933]

Grant Shapps: Information on the number of people sleeping rough in England is collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government on a yearly basis.

The number of people sleeping rough in England can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/roughsleepingcounts/

The coalition Government have acted decisively to introduce a more accurate assessment of rough sleeping levels so that there is clear information in all areas, to inform service provision and action to address the problem. The previous Government's approach to assessing rough sleeping did not capture the full extent of the problem across the country.

Housing Benefit

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the potential number of people affected by the proposed limits to housing benefit for people who under-occupy their property. [90990]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

This information, along with a regional breakdown, is contained in the equality impact assessment available on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011.pdf

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the revenue generated from empty property rates came from public sector organisations in the last year for which figures are available. [91830]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave to him on 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 2MC, and to my hon. Friend the Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer) on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W.

Social Rented Housing

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of social rated housing which is illegally sub-let; and how that cost is calculated. [91725]

Grant Shapps: The National Fraud Authority estimates that housing tenancy fraud in England costs around £900 million a year.

This figure is based on the Audit Commission's estimates that it costs an average of £18,000 per year to house a family or individual in temporary housing and that 50,000 properties are unlawfully occupied in England (which would otherwise be available for occupation).

Recent research by housing fraud specialists HJK Investigations has suggested that the level of such fraud could be far greater.

Replacing the social homes that are being unlawfully occupied—to house those who have effectively been displaced by tenancy fraudsters—would cost several billion pounds.

In December 2010, the Government announced funding of £19 million over four years for social landlords to tackle fraud in their stock. We are currently consulting on proposals that would increase the deterrent to tenants considering cheating the system, allow those who do cheat to be detected more easily and punished more severely and encourage social landlords to take a more proactive approach to tackling tenancy fraud.

These include proposals that would mean social tenants who abuse their tenancies could be subject to criminal sanctions, with a maximum penalty of a £50,000 fine and two years imprisonment; and would allow for any profits made from tenancy fraud to be confiscated and a restitutionary payment to be made to the landlord.

Homelessness: Support

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department allocated to *(a)* Centrepoint, *(b)* Crisis, *(c)* Skill Force and *(d)* Shelter in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [90400]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* The following table shows the total allocations of funding allocated to Centrepoint, Crisis, Skill Force and Shelter in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

		£
	2010-11	*2011-12*
Centrepoint	0	0
Crisis	2,150,000	4,000,000
Skillforce	0	0
Shelter	3,223,365	2,437,460

This funding was provided to Crisis to help single homeless people access stable accommodation in the private rented sector and for Shelter to operate the National Homelessness Advice Service (a partnership between Shelter and Citizens Advice) and debt advice for the Home Owners Mortgage Support Scheme.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* The Art Room, *(b)* the National Portrait Gallery, *(c)* Mountain Rescue England, *(d)* the English Schools Swimming Association, *(e)* the Scout Association and *(f)* Missing Links UK in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [90747]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* No payments have been made to these organisations during 2010-11 or thus far in 2011-12.

CABINET OFFICE

Challenge Network

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding his Department provided to The Challenge Network in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [91910]

Mr Hurd: The Challenge Network is one of the Cabinet Office's partners for delivery of the National Citizen Service. In 2010-11 the Cabinet Office provided grant funds of £1,236,000 to The Challenge Network and has current grant awards for 2011-12 with The Challenge Network up to the total of £7,017,702.

Cybercrime

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent *(a)* multilateral and *(b)* bilateral discussions he has had with his (i) international and (ii) European counterparts on establishing international law in the area of cyber security; and if he will make a statement. [91881]

Mr Maude: In May 2011 the UK ratified the Council of Europe's Budapest Cybercrime Convention which is the main international treaty relating to cyber crime and provides a clear legislative and procedural framework for international co-operation. The UK, as the current chair of the Council of Europe, is strongly supportive of work by the Council to promote the Convention. The Government have also opted in to the draft EU Directive on attacks on information systems, that seeks to establish commonality of offences, minimum levels of punishment, and mechanisms for enhanced co-operation between member states to tackle these crimes. More generally we have made it clear that Governments should act in cyber space in accordance with existing international law, and the UK Government are taking a leading role in promoting international consensus around what constitutes acceptable behaviour in cyber space. The London Conference on Cyberspace in November 2011 began a process for enhanced dialogue among nations on this important issue. The UK will be represented on a UN Group of Government Experts meeting later this year which will address this question in more detail.

New Businesses: Worcestershire

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new companies were started in *(a)* Worcester constituency and *(b)* Worcestershire in each of the last three years. [92162]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many new companies were started in (a) Worcester constituency and (b) Worcestershire in each of the last three years, [92162]

ONS does not separately produce statistics on the number of company births, however annual statistics on the total number of enterprise births are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The most current statistics available are 2010.

The table contains the latest statistics available, which show the number of enterprise births in Worcester constituency, Worcestershire County and its districts for 2008-2010.

Count of births of new enterprises for 2008-10, Worcester constituency, Worcestershire county and districts

	Births		
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Worcester Constituency	350	275	310
Worcestershire County	2,435	2,015	2,175
Bromsgrove	470	390	405
Malvern Hills	375	285	340
Redditch.	325	260	270
Worcester	350	275	310
Wychavon	535	465	540
Wyre Forest	380	340	310

Note:

The figures have been rounded to the nearest five, to avoid disclosure.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

European Liberal Summit

Ian Lucas: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided any resources for the organisation and hosting of the European Liberal Summit he hosted on 9 January 2012; and what the monetary value was of any such resources. [91812]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Wolverhampton North East (Emma Reynolds) on 25 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 271W.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether any officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were present at the European Liberal Summit he hosted on 9 January 2012; and what advice or support he received from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in advance of this event. [91813]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I hosted the meeting of European Liberal Democrats in Government in my capacity as Leader of the Liberal Democrats.

No officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were present at the meeting. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided briefing for the bilateral meetings held in my capacity as Deputy Prime Minister.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many times he has visited Brussels in an official capacity in the last year; and on which such occasions he was accompanied by officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [91878]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Details of Ministers' overseas travel are published on a quarterly basis. Information for the period April 2011 to June 2011 can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations-april-june

Information for the period of July 2011 to December 2011 will be published in due course.

I have been supported by the UK's Permanent Representative to the European Union and his staff on all visits to Brussels in 2011.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Fraud

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Attorney-General what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on which organisations the Government proposes will in future be responsible for investigating and prosecuting offences relating to serious fraud. [91658]

The Attorney-General: There have been no recent ministerial discussions. The position remains as set out in "The National Crime Agency: A plan for the creation of a national crime-fighting capability" which was published in June 2011.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bill of Rights

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. [91566]

Mr Swire: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given on 24 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 150W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department are engaged in delivering *(a)* front line and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91077]

Mr Paterson: Front-line staff are classified as those staff that have a role dealing primarily with the public. On this basis, the NIO does not have any staff engaged in front line services. There are currently 92 members of staff (54%) working within the Business Delivery Group and providing a wide range of corporate services across the Department.

TREASURY

Assets: Egypt

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assets held in the UK have been frozen at the request of the Egyptian Government in the last 12 months; in each such case who the individual was who held the assets; and what the *(a)* type and *(b)* value of the assets was. [91697]

Mr Hoban: The sanctions in respect of Egypt impose an asset freeze against 19 individuals identified as responsible for the misappropriation of Egyptian state funds. A list of these individuals is available from the Treasury website

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_sanctions_egypt.htm

and is reproduced here for convenience.

(1) Ahmed, Abla Mohamed Fawzi Ali
(2) Al Naggar, Shahinaz Abdel Aziz Abdel Wahab
(3) El Gammal, Khadiga Mahmoud
(4) El Gazaerly, Naglaa Abdallah
(5) Eladli, Habib Ibrahim Habib
(6) Eldin, Jaylane Shawkat Hosni Galal
(7) Elmaghraby, Ahmed Alaeldin Amin Abdelmaksoud
(8) Ezz, Ahmed Abdelaziz
(9) Fahmy, Hania Mahmoud Abdel Rahman
(10) Garrana, Amir Mohamed Zohir Mohamed Wahed
(11) Garrana, Mohamed Zohir Mohamed Wahed
(12) Hussein, Rachid Mohamed Rachid
(13) Mubarak, Alaa Mohamed Hosni Elsayed
(14) Mubarak, Gamal Mohamed Hosni Elsayed
(15) Mubarak, Mohamed Hosni Elsayed
(16) Rasekh, Heidy Mahmoud Magdy Hussein
(17) Sharshar, Elham Sayed Salem
(18) Thabet, Suzanne Saleh
(19) Yassin, Khadiga Ahmed Ahmed Kamel

For reasons of confidentiality, the Treasury is unable to disclose the information requested about individuals and their assets frozen in the UK under the Egypt sanctions regime.

Banking

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will introduce an obligation for banks to serve low and middle income communities; and if he will make a statement; [91907]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of communities with only one bank branch; and if he will make a statement; [91908]

(3) what assessment he has made of the economic effect of bank branch closures on their local communities; and if he will make a statement; [91909]

(4) what information his Department holds on how many bank branches closed in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91977]

Mr Hoban: The Government do not intervene in commercial decisions as to whether, and where, banks maintain branches.

However, Government believe that it is important for individuals to be able to access an appropriate range of financial products and services, and will continue to monitor the situation.

The Government do not collect information relating to branch closures.

Bankruptcy

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were made bankrupt as a result of court action initiated by HM Revenue and Customs in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [91968]

Mr Gauke: HMRC only initiates bankruptcy or winding up action where it believes this is the best course of action to protect the interests of the Exchequer in respect of a particular debt. HMRC does not take such action lightly.

Neither HMRC nor any other creditor makes individuals bankrupt. Bankruptcy orders are made by the courts.

Information on how many people were made bankrupt as a result of court action initiated by HM Revenue and Customs in each month since May 2010 is shown in the following table:

Sequestrations and bankruptcies following HMRC petitions

	Scotland	*England and Wales*	*NI*	*Total*
2010				
May	55	229	22	306
June	78	249	26	352
July	74	256	3	333
August	37	229	2	268
September	33	244	34	311
October	41	208	14	263
November	62	236	14	312
December	46	156	11	213
2011				
January	57	269	30	356
February	42	177	27	246
March	49	295	32	376
April	37	218	21	276
May	57	200	18	276
June	39	266	26	331
July	44	265	3	312
August	48	294	6	348
September	45	216	44	305
October	40	344	39	423
November	36	282	33	351
December	39	195	23	257
Total	959	4,828	427	6,214

The equivalent of bankruptcy in Scotland is sequestration.

Copyright: Internet

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the likely cost to the British economy of proposed US legislation, the *(a)* Stop Online Piracy Act and *(b)* Protect IP Act. [91610]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has made no assessment or received representations on the effect on the UK of measures contained in the US Stop Piracy Online act.

EU Law

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88970]

Miss Chloe Smith: EU provisions that need to be given effect by the Treasury are transposed into UK law via primary and secondary legislation. This information is not aggregated. The following table provides the total number of Treasury primary and secondary provisions brought onto the statute books during 2010 and 2011 and the numbers of such instruments which, in full or in part, give effect to EU requirements.

	2010	*2011*
Primary legislation total	16	5
Primary legislation—of EU origin	3	1
Secondary legislation total	127	143
Secondary legislation—of EU origin	20	24

It is not possible to ascertain whether specific measures originated from Commission proposals, or whether EU requirements were given effect via domestic measures other than primary or secondary legislation, without incurring disproportionate costs.

Executives: Pay

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* salaries and *(b)* bonuses in the financial sector are in proportion with those of other industries. [91576]

Mr Hoban: The Government have been clear that the banks must act responsibly in setting their bonuses. As a result of Government action, remuneration of UK based staff for the four major UK banks was lower in 2010 than in 2009 and lower than it would otherwise have been. The Financial Services Authority's (FSA) revised Remuneration Code ensures bonuses are deferred over at least three years and are linked to the performance of the employee and their firm

Greater transparency helps shareholders hold boards to account on pay. In addition to FSA rules requiring disclosure of the aggregate pay of risk-taking staff, the Government are consulting on extending executive pay disclosure arrangements made under Project Merlin to eight executives below board level at all large banks from this year onwards.

Measures which improve the alignment of risk and reward in the financial sector are a key element of the wider strategy on executive pay. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), announced proposals on 23 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 23-25, covering pay governance and transparency.

Internet: Sales

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue has been raised by the Exchequer as result of the sale of *(a)* CDs, *(b)* DVDs, *(c)* e-books and *(d)* songs purchased by electronic means from the internet in each of the last five years. [91799]

Mr Gauke: No estimate has been made.

National Insurance Contributions: New Businesses

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had on making the national insurance contribution holiday an opt-out rather than opt-in scheme. [91606]

Mr Gauke: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 432W. The barriers to having an opt-out rather than an opt-in scheme remain.

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to encourage participation in the National Insurance contribution holiday scheme. [91607]

Mr Gauke: The Government have taken a number of steps to increase the take-up of the national insurance contribution holiday scheme, including:

HMRC issuing personalised letters to all new businesses registered for a PAYE scheme in the eligible regions since the start of the scheme;

promoting the scheme through regional press, with agents and other business intermediaries, and on HMRC and businesslink websites; and

relaxing the rules to allow agents to apply on behalf of a business.

PAYE: Pensions

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential difficulty for employers of implementing simultaneously PAYE real-time information and automatic enrolment into workplace pensions. [91308]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 23 January 2012]:* The majority of employers (including small employers) will not implement Real Time Information (RTI) and auto-enrolment into workplace pensions at the same time. Employers will begin submitting PAYE RTI from April 2013 whereas small employers will start to carry out auto-enrolment into workplace pensions in June 2015. Given this staggered approach HMRC does not believe these timings create any particular difficulty for employers.

The real-time reporting of PAYE information aims to reduce administrative burdens for all employers, including small employers (upon whom the current burden of PAYE falls disproportionately). The aim is to achieve this by integrating employee payment and reporting to HMRC into a single payroll process.

The Government are committed to simplifying the tax system and reducing the compliance costs for businesses and HMRC is working closely with the Office for Tax Simplification (OTS) to identify simplifications to the tax system, particularly, in relation to small business taxation.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) practices for the purpose of ensuring that small businesses do not incur a fine due to the time taken by HMRC to notify them that their returns are late. [90734]

Mr Gauke: HMRC works with employers and their representatives to help them meet statutory obligations. HMRC inform employers of their obligation to file a Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Employer Annual Return by the statutory deadline and the consequences of not doing so.

HMRC is committed to continually improving its processes and is actively considering a range of initiatives to encourage employers to file their 2011-12 PAYE Employer Annual Return on time. Changes being implemented so far include the retiming of the employers 'Notification to File' to coincide with the end of the tax year and the introduction of a new 'Just File' reminder which will be issued shortly before the 19 May deadline.

Taxation: International Co-operation

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what negotiations with other countries his Department is involved in on *(a)* double taxation agreements and *(b)* tax evasion. [91412]

Mr Gauke: Excluding those countries where agreements have since been signed, my officials have held negotiations on double taxation agreements in the last two years with Albania, Austria, Barbados, Brunei, Canada, Croatia, Iceland, India, Liechtenstein, Malawi, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Singapore, Spain, Turkmenistan and the United States; and on tax information exchange agreements with Andorra, Brazil, Costa Rica, the Marshall Islands and the Seychelles.

There have been no negotiations with other countries on tax evasion since the conclusion of the Tax Co-operation Agreement with Switzerland.

Working Tax Credit

Ann Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on couples with children who work less than 24 hours a week of his proposals for reform of the working tax credit; whether he proposes that such couples will still be entitled to claim working tax credit; and at what rate such a claim would be. [91537]

Mr Gauke: This change makes the system fairer by reducing the disparity in the number of hours which lone parents and couples are obliged to work.

Couples with children will continue to qualify for working tax credit where at least one member of a couple works at least 16 hours per week and that person is eligible for the working tax credit disability element or is aged 60 or over.

Couples with children may also qualify for working tax credit if one member of a couple works at least 16 hours a week and a qualifying sickness or disability benefit, for example, incapacity benefit is payable for the other.

HMRC is not planning to make any transitional arrangements or provide additional services for couples with children who may lose entitlement to working tax credit as a result of the change to the working hours conditions in April 2012.

At the end of November 2011 HMRC wrote to those who may be affected to advise them of the change and what they need to do if they wish to continue to qualify for working tax credit. Anybody contacting HMRC since then to report a change of circumstances, that will mean they will be affected, has been given the same advice.

HEALTH

Autism: Health Services

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the level of qualification and experience of providers of services to people with autism spectrum conditions; [91807]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the role of person-centred services for people with autistic spectrum conditions; [91875]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* role and *(b)* value-for-money of autism-specific services; [91876]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of NHS services for people with *(a)* autism spectrum conditions and *(b)* learning disabilities. [91877]

Paul Burstow: Those providing care—whether national health service, charity or private sector—have a duty to make sure that care is high quality and safe. That is why the Care Quality Commission is currently carrying out a programme of unannounced inspections into all hospitals for people with learning disabilities. This work will inform the Department's wider review.

This Government are committed to the adult autism strategy and will carry out a formal evaluation of progress against the strategy's key objectives by 2013.

Statutory guidance for health and social care bodies published on 17 December 2010 to support delivery of the strategy focuses on four important areas where health and social care can improve the way they support adults with autism:

increasing understanding of autism among front-line staff;

strengthening diagnosis and assessment of needs;

improving transition from child to adult services; and

ensuring the needs of adults with autism are included within local health and care service planning.

'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: Evaluating Progress', a self-assessment framework published on 1 April last year provides support to localities in delivering the strategy and statutory guidance. This self-assessment framework should help health and social care bodies identify how they are doing in terms of planning services. The Department has commissioned the Learning Disabilities Public Health Observatory to collate these self-assessments, and make them available on their website.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has developed clinical guidelines for children and young people with autism, with further guidelines for adults with autism scheduled to be published in July 2012.

There has been no recent assessment of the adequacy of NHS services for people with learning disabilities. However, this Government are committed to improving the health of people with learning disabilities:

we have extended the contract for a Government-funded confidential inquiry into the premature and avoidable death of people with learning disabilities;

we are funding a specific public health observatory focussing on improving health care for people with learning disabilities; and

we are continuing to support annual health checks for people with learning disabilities.

General Practitioners

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications for cross-border GP consortia have been received by the Shadow NHS Commissioning Board to date. [91547]

Anne Milton: The NHS Commissioning Board Authority is a preparatory body aimed at preparing for the establishment of the NHS Commissioning Board, subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill. Therefore, it has no power to authorise clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and is not taking applications for this purpose.

The Government have accepted the NHS Future Forum's recommendation that the boundaries of CCGs should not normally cross those of local authorities.

If a commissioning group wishes to be established on the basis of boundaries that would cross local authority boundaries, it will be expected to demonstrate to the NHS Commissioning Board a clear rationale in terms of benefits for patients: for example, if it would reflect local patient flows or enable the group to take on practices where, overall, this would secure a better service for patients. Further, they would need to provide a clear account of how they would expect to achieve better integration between health and social care services. Further detail on how authorisation can work is set out in "Developing Clinical Commissioning Groups: Towards Authorisation" (September 2011). A copy has been placed in the Library.

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to encourage pharmacists to become involved in the GP commissioning process in order for their opinions to be considered. [91579]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government wants clinical commissioning groups to have the flexibility to engage with the full range of health and care professionals to support the design of pathways of care and to shape services. Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) will be required to obtain appropriate advice from a broad range of professionals, which can include pharmacists. CCGs may also include pharmacists in their committees.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for issuing guidance to commissioning groups (to which they must have regard) on their duty to obtain appropriate professional advice, for example in relation to working with multi-disciplinary clinical networks and senates.

Hospitals

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve co-operation between hospital trusts to ensure efficient continuity of patient care. [91546]

Mr Simon Burns: All national health service bodies and private and third sector providers supplying NHS services are required by the Health Act 2009 to take account of the NHS Constitution in their decisions and actions. This includes the principle that the NHS works across organisational boundaries and in partnership with other organisations in the interest of patients, local communities and the wider population.

The Health and Social Care Bill takes this further by making it clear that in exercising any of their functions, commissioners must act with a view to securing that services are provided in a way that promotes the NHS Constitution; and with a view to securing continuous improvement in outcomes, including effectiveness, safety and quality of patient experience. Commissioners must also exercise their functions with a view to securing that health services are provided in an integrated way, where this would improve the quality of those services including outcomes and/or reduce inequalities in relation to access to services and outcomes.

Monitor's overriding duty, as sector regulator for NHS health care, would be to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of services, for the benefits of patients. Monitor would be required to support commissioners by enabling integration of services.

Hospitals: Electricity

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a list of all hospitals that are contracted to provide electricity on demand to STOR aggregators. [91954]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not maintain a central record of Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR) contracted trusts.

The STOR commitment of making available electrical generation capacity is a local operational issue contracted by an individual national health service trust or collection of trusts.

Duchenne Care Standards

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the accreditation process for the Duchenne standards of care. [91937]

Paul Burstow: We have had no recent discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on their accreditation process for the Duchenne standards of care.

NHS: Reorganisation

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* redundancy and *(b)* non-redundancy costs which have been incurred as a result of NHS reorganisation since (i) May 2010 and (ii) January 2011. [91810]

Anne Milton: National health service bodies are constantly in the process of reorganisation to modernise services and improve value for money.

The annual accounts information we collect from the NHS only gives the total cost of all redundancies for a financial year, it is not broken down by category (so we cannot identify redundancies relating specifically to restructuring) and we cannot attribute any costs to a particular period of a year.

Organs: Donors

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in South Swindon constituency are registered as organ donors; and if he will make a statement. [91617]

Anne Milton: As at 4 October 2011 there were 32,705 people registered on the organ donor register in South Swindon.

The Organ Donation Taskforce report, published in 2008, stated that by strengthening the donation programme in the United Kingdom, organ donor rates could increase by 50% by 2013. This would enable a further 1,200 people each year to benefit from a transplant.

Significant investment in the implementation of the taskforce recommendations, such as more donor transplant co-ordinators and clinical leads and donation committees in every acute trust, has seen donor rates rise by around 31% since 2008. Over 18 million people, some 29% of the United Kingdom population, have now registered on the organ donor register.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Expenditure: Drinks

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies have spent on (i) wine, (ii) other alcoholic refreshments and (iii) bottled water since May 2010. [91962]

Mr Lidington: This information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office undertakes a wide range of activities to establish and maintain contacts throughout its network of over 250 overseas posts as well as diplomatic activity in the UK to promote and defend British interests. Any such spending is undertaken for business reasons, and expenditure on business hospitality is kept under rigorous scrutiny to ensure value for money and effectiveness and is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings have taken place at EU level to negotiate the terms of the fiscal compact in advance of the EU summit on 30 January 2012; and whether the Government was represented at each such meeting. [91869]

Mr Hague: Three meetings of the ad hoc working group on the Fiscal Stability Union have taken place: on 20 December 2011, 6 January 2012 and 12 January 2012. The proposed Treaty was also discussed at a Eurogroup-plus meeting on 23 January. The British Government have been represented at each meeting.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on investigating the legal issues surrounding the use of EU institutions by non-EU bodies since the EU summit in December 2011. [91870]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Legal Advisers department provides and obtains advice on a wide variety of legal matters. Work for the FCO on the legal issues to date has been absorbed within the Legal Advisers' existing budget.

Economic and Monetary Union: Civil Service

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any civil servants have been involved in official negotiations with other EU countries on the fiscal compact ahead of the EU summit on 30 January 2012; what the grade was of each such civil servant; and which department they represented. [91868]

Mr Hague: UK civil servants have attended ad hoc working group meetings to raise issues and offer observations. We will not be signing up to the Intergovernmental Treaty, so we are not negotiating on the text. Senior civil servants from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Treasury and the UK Permanent Representation to the EU, including the Permanent Representative, represented the UK.

EU Countries: Visits Abroad

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on ministerial travel to each EU member state capital in each month since October 2010. [91871]

Mr Hague: Details of ministerial travel are published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/transparency-and-data1/hospitality

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the aims and objectives of policy on Pakistan are. [91817]

Alistair Burt: The UK's policy in Pakistan is based on five objectives. We want to work with Pakistan on national security issues and counter-terrorism; helping Pakistan consolidate democracy; supporting Pakistan to deliver macro-economic stability, growth and services for its citizens and supporting Pakistan to play a constructive role in the region.

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions his Department has intervened in order to help facilitate the return of monies held in overseas countries or banks since the enactment of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002; and in which countries. [91938]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's global diplomatic network works on organised crime issues under the lead of the Home Office, in line with the Strategic Defence and Security Review's commitment to "ensure that our diplomatic posts co-ordinate the overseas responses at a strategic level". However, we do not comment on interventions with foreign governments in connection with police investigations, some of which may be ongoing. We do not hold figures for the number of such interventions since the enactment of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the Big Society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91395]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Most of our policies are implemented overseas, so do not fall within the domestic Big Society initiative and this aspect of our policy implementation is not measured. We work hard to strengthen and support civil society in all the countries that we work in.

However, all HMG Departments are committed to the initiative to open up Government supplier contracts to smaller enterprises. We have implemented changes to our procurement monitoring so that we can measure the number of contracts awarded to UK small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office makes it as easy as possible for staff to contribute to their community by giving all employees up to five days paid special leave a year for this, whether in the UK or abroad. Many staff also choose to give up their own time to volunteer, though this is not measured.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance: British Nationality

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department is providing to British citizens previously living abroad who have returned to the UK and meet the 26 week residency criteria and are awaiting a decision on a claim for disability living allowance. [91808]

Maria Miller: The Department for Work and Pensions endeavours to deal with all claims as quickly as possible. Where a decision cannot be made until after the first day of entitlement to disability living allowance then an arrears payment will be made to cover this period.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many British citizens previously living abroad who have returned to the UK and meet the 26 week residency criteria are awaiting a decision on a claim for disability living allowance. [91809]

Maria Miller: While the Department for Work and Pensions holds information on outstanding claims to DLA, we are not able to provide a breakdown based on the requested criteria.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not routinely collect or record information on where people have previously lived, or how long they have been in the country, for periods that do not affect their claim for disability living allowance.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what alternatives his Department considered to the one-year time-limit on contributory employment and support allowance; and what the reasons were for not pursuing any such alternatives. [91788]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for St Ives (Andrew George) on 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 92W.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the employment and support allowance support group have a statutorily-defined terminal illness under the terms of his Department's DS1500 Form. [92018]

Chris Grayling: Claimants to employment and support allowance (ESA) who are deemed to be terminally ill, with less than six months to live, will be placed directly into the support group, without having to undergo a face-to-face work capability assessment (WCA).

Data on the number of claimants who are currently in the support group on this basis are not available.

However, data are available on the number of terminally ill claimants moving into the ESA support group. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on ESA and WCA. Table 5 in the most recent publication (released in January 2012) shows that, for the period March 2011 to May 2011 (the most recent data available), around 1,000 claimants were assigned to the support group on the grounds that they were terminally ill.

The publication can be found on the Departmental website here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/
index.php?paae=esa_wca

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employment and support allowance applicants have undertaken a work capability assessment whilst having a statutorily-defined terminal illness under the terms of his Department's DS1500 Form. [92019]

Chris Grayling: The Department considers a person to be terminally ill if they are diagnosed with a progressive disease, and where death is a likely consequence of that disease and is reasonably expected within six months. Such people will be treated as having limited capability for work and will not need to undergo the face to face work capability assessment in order to determine eligibility for employment and support allowance (ESA).

Additionally, they will also be treated as having limited capability for work-related activity, and so will be placed in the support group of ESA where they will not be expected to undertake work-related activity.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with a statutorily-defined terminal illness under the terms of his Department's DS1500 Form are in the work related activity group for employment and support allowance. [92020]

Chris Grayling: The Department considers a person to be terminally ill if they are diagnosed with a progressive disease, and where death is a likely consequence of that disease and is reasonably expected within six months.

Such people will be treated as having limited capability for work, and limited capability for work-related activity, and as such cannot be placed in the work related activity group of employment and support allowance (ESA). They will be placed in the support group where they will not be expected to undertake work-related activity. They will not need to undergo the face to face work capability assessment in order to determine eligibility for ESA.

Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals against refusal of the employment and support allowance there were in each month from June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [91973]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows the number of employment and support allowance (ESA) appeals received by the Department for the period June 2010 to December 2011, the last date for which figures are available. These figures represent all ESA appeals received, including those customers appealing against the result of their work capability assessment as well as those where ESA has been refused before a claimant enters the ESA assessment phase.

Note that appeals against incapacity benefit reassessment claims are not included in these figures.

	ESA appeals received
2010	
June	19,600
July	20,300
August	20,300
September	19,900
October	19,700
November	21,700
December	17,400
2011	
January	15,100
February	18,200
March	22,400
April	18,200
May	17,700
June	20,400
July	18,700
August	18,000
September	12,800
October	12,800
November	12,900
December	12,600

Notes:
1. Management Information System Programme (MISP) is the departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tool. This type of internal management information does not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice.
2. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Management Information System Programme 25 January 2012.

Employment Tribunals Service: Unfair Dismissal

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for unfair dismissal tribunal hearings there were in each month from June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [91961]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions employs over 100,000 staff. Robust measures are in place to ensure that all procedures are correctly followed before employees are dismissed including access to a Complex Case Advisory Service for managers.

Since June 2010 there has been a total of 389 applications for unfair dismissal tribunal hearings lodged with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The details for each month from June 2010 are as follows:

	Number
2010	
June	21
July	16
August	16
September	10
October	9
November	21
December	10
2011	
January	9
February	12
March	20
April	8
May	18
June	27
July	17
August	37
September	59
October	32
November	26
December	14
2012	
January	7

Housing Benefit

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in each local authority area that will be affected by the planned reduction in housing benefit because the tenants have two or more spare bedrooms. [91873]

Steve Webb: The information is not available for each local authority area.

The estimated impact of changes to housing benefit for working-age tenants living in the social rented sector is based upon information collected in the Department's Family Resources Survey. Because the survey collects information from a sample of households, we cannot produce reliable estimates for the number of claimants affected by local authority area.

In February 2011 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) produced an impact assessment entitled "Under-occupation of social housing", coinciding with the publication of the Welfare Reform Bill. The impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf

The impact assessment included a national estimate of the extent to which claimants were under-occupying their accommodation for working age housing benefit recipients living in social housing, under-occupying their home and who were likely to be affected by the introduction of the size criteria in social-rented housing in 2013-14.

In Great Britain we estimate that approximately 150,000 working age claimants would be under occupying accommodation by two or more bedrooms when the change to housing benefit is introduced in 2013-14.

Housing Benefit: Autism

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has conducted an assessment of the potential effects of extending the shared accommodation rate for housing benefit to those under the age of 35 who suffer from autism. [91879]

Steve Webb: We are unable to complete such an assessment as data are not available that identifies people with autism within housing benefit. However those that receive the severe disability premium will be exempt as will those individuals who have a non-resident overnight carer or who live in certain types of supported accommodation.

Further, individuals can apply to their local authority for a discretionary housing payment. We have trebled the support for discretionary housing payments and this will enable local authorities to provide additional support such as allowing extra time to find suitable alternative accommodation and provide longer term support for vulnerable customers.

Identity Assurance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason his Department has published a cancellation notice in the *Official Journal* of the European Union in respect of its tender for identity assurance services; and if he will make a statement. [91958]

Chris Grayling: The cancellation notice was issued in order to allow a short period of further consultation and collaborative working between my Department, Cabinet Office and other Government Departments. This will ensure that the Department for Work and Pensions' identity assurance arrangements are fully coherent with broader Government policy and intentions in this area, and—where appropriate—provide a suitable route to market for other Departments.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to issue his Department's tender for identity assurance services; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the time taken to issue that tender on his Department's programmes. [91959]

Chris Grayling: Following a period of consultation and collaborative working with Cabinet Office and other Government Departments, we expect to issue the tender no later than the first week in March. Although we are developing contingencies to mitigate the effects of any delay, we have been able to manage the impact within the procurement process, and do not at present anticipate any effects upon dependent programmes.

Pensions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were members of *(a)* defined benefit and *(b)* defined contribution pension schemes in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [90928]

Steve Webb: The response is derived from two data sources, for employer-based pension schemes and non employer-based pension schemes respectively.

The numbers of employee jobs with *(a)* defined benefit and *(b)* defined contribution employer-based pension schemes, in each of the last five years for which figures are available, are provided in the following table. These data are from the ONS' Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Note that employees may have more than one job. The figures are for indicative purposes only and should not be considered an accurate estimate of employee job counts.

Defined contribution pensions here include employer-based Group Personal Pensions and Stakeholder Pensions, where individuals enter into a contract with a pension provider (usually an insurance company).

Million

	Employer-based defined benefit schemes	*Employer-based defined contribution schemes*	*Total*
2006	8.5	4.2	12.7
2007	8.6	4.2	12.9
2008	8.6	4.2	12.7
2009	8.5	4,2	12.6
2010	8.2	4.2	12.5

The membership numbers of non employer-based defined contribution pension schemes are provided in the following table. These include personal pensions and stakeholder pensions and would not be included in the ASHE figures shown above. Data are derived from HMRC's Tables 7.4 and 7.5 as reported to HMRC by pension providers.

Million

	Non-employer based defined contribution pensions schemes	*Personal pension schemes*	*Stakeholder pension schemes*	*Total*
2005-06	6.3	0.8	7.1	
2006-07	6.1	0.9	7.0	
2007-08	5.9	0.9	6.8	
2008-09	5,6	0.9	6.5	
2009-10	5.3	0.9	6.2	

For both ASHE and HMRC data sources, components may not sum to their total due to rounding.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many reports of benefit fraud were received through the benefit fraud report hotline in the last 12 months; and how many of these resulted in an investigation. [91124]

Chris Grayling: Every call to the national benefit fraud hotline is assessed. The information is passed to either the Fraud Investigation Service for investigation leading to a prosecution or sanction if appropriate, or to customer compliance teams who will correct the benefit and start the recovery of any overpayment.

In 2010-11, 251,847 allegations of suspected benefit fraud were reported to the hotline of which 30,516 were referred to the Fraud Investigation Service.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money was claimed back as a result of investigations carried out following reports to the benefit fraud hotline in the last 12 months. [91125]

Chris Grayling: The amount of money recovered as a result of investigations carried out following a report of suspected fraud to the national benefit fraud hotline is not available.

However, in 2010-11 the Department recovered over £322 million of debts owed to the Department.

Universal Credit

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made on the testing and implementation of computer systems that will be used to administer the universal credit. [90906]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit is on track and on budget to deliver a new benefit system fit for the 21st century from 2013.

While universal credit represents a huge step forward in the evolution of the working age benefits system, it is not based on new large-scale, complex IT systems. Over 60% of the total system is based on re-using existing IT, with the new developments using tried and tested IT technology.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 920W, on universal credit, what the membership of the transition working group on the likely effects of universal credit on local authorities is. [91939]

Chris Grayling: The Local Authority Transition Working Group membership consists of senior representatives from local authority revenues and benefits services covering England, Scotland and Wales. They are nominated by the Local Authority Associations, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and Welsh Local Government Association. In addition there are several representatives from local authorities who have expressed an interest in working with my Department on welfare reform impacts.

There are also representatives from my Department, Department for Communities and Local Government, Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government.

The terms of reference for the group and minutes from the meetings are published on my Department's website:

www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/universal-credit-information/local-authority-transition-working/

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 920W, on universal credit, which local authorities *(a)* have been visited and *(b)* will be visited in the course of work to assess the likely effects of universal credit on local authorities. [91940]

Chris Grayling: In recognition of the importance of LAs to successful delivery of UC, an LA liaison team, which included an LA secondee, has been established to build and manage our relationships with LAs, bringing LA insight and expertise into the programme and communicating key messages back to LAs. One key aspect of building a successful rapport with LAs has been our programme of visits to individual LAs nationwide—including four to Wales and nine to Scotland. The programme began last summer and by the end of March over 100 LAs will have been visited.

The following list contains the names of the LAs already visited up until January 2012:

Amber Valley
Ashford
Barking and Dagenham
Basildon
Bath
Bedford
Birmingham
Blackpool
Bolton
Bolton Benefits Forum
Bournemouth
Bracknell Forest
Brent
Brighton and Hove
Bristol
Bromley
Bromsgrove
Burnley
Bury
Cannock Chase
Castlepoint
Cheshire East
Colchester
Conwy
Cornwall
Coventry
Dartford
Dundee City
Dundee Benefits forum
Durham
East Devon
East Riding of Yorkshire
Edinburgh
Enfield
Erewash
Falkirk
Fife
Flintshire
Fylde
Glasgow
Great Yarmouth
Guildford
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham

Harlow
Harrogate
Harrow
Hertfordshire
Hinckley and Bosworth
Inverclyde
Isle of Anglesey
Isle of Wight
Islington
Kent
Kings Lynn
Kirklees
Knowsley
Lambeth
Leeds
Leicester
Lewisham
Liverpool
Newcastle
North Devon
North Lincolnshire
North Warwickshire
North Yorkshire
Northampton
Perth and Kinross
Poole
Renfrewshire
Ribble Valley
Rushmoor
Sevenoaks
Sheffield
Shepway
Shropshire
South Norfolk
Southampton
Stockport
Surrey
Tameside
Tonbridge
Warrington
West Norfolk
West Somerset
Wiltshire
Wrexham
Wyre Forest.

Visits booked between February and March 2012:

Angus
Calderdale
Cleethorpes
Darlington
Derbyshire
Dales
Grimsby
Hull
Luton
Merton
Mid-Devon
Middlesbrough
New Forest
Northumberland
Oxford City
Pembrokeshire
Salford
Sandwell
Sefton
South Kesteven
South Northampton
South Oxfordshire and The Vale White Horse
South Somerset
Stour Valley
Wyre Valley.

Housing associations visited:

Amicus Horizon
Guinness
East Thames Housing
Knightstone.

Welfare Reform Bill

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill on levels of subjective well-being of children. [90930]

Maria Miller: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave on 20 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 1020-21W.

Work Experience

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department collects on the ratio of work placements to job interviews undertaken under the sector-based work academy scheme. [91960]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of claimants participating in the sector-based work academy scheme will be published later in the year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Egypt

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of the former Egyptian Government have claimed political asylum in the UK. [91694]

Damian Green: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Travel Requirements

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* quickest and *(b)* slowest times taken to process an application for a convention travel document submitted in each of the years from 2000 to 2010 were. [91700]

Damian Green: The information in the format requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

However the published targets for processing applications for Home Office travel documents are 70% within 20 working days and 98% in 70 working days.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Civil Partnerships: Ceremonies

Jim Shannon: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities (1) what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Church of England and *(b)* other church groups on same sex marriages in church; [92353]

(2) what representations she has received from the Church of England on same sex marriages in church. [92354]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government will publish a formal consultation on equal civil marriage in March 2012. I have met with a wide range of organisations ahead of this consultation including with representatives from the following church organisations: Church of England, Catholic Church, the Evangelical Alliance, Christian Institute, Quakers and Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Discussions have been held and are ongoing with other organisations including those representing other faith groups, non-religious groups and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups.

This consultation will not propose any changes to religious marriage. Same-sex couples will not be able, under these proposals, to have a marriage through a religious ceremony on religious premises.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burkina Faso: Poverty

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made on the number of people living in poverty in Burkina Faso. [92228]

Mr O'Brien: According to the latest available data from the World Bank (2003), it is estimated that 56.5% out of Burkina Faso's total population of 16.5 million are living below the international poverty line of $1.25 per day.

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have an aid programme or a presence in Burkina Faso.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the conduct of the recent elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [91964]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: President Kabila was inaugurated as President of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 20 December. Her Majesty's ambassador attended the inauguration. We remain concerned about reports of irregularities during the electoral process and call on CENI (the DRC Electoral Commission) to investigate fully all such complaints. We await the final reports of international election observation missions, including the European Union and Carter Center missions.

Developing Countries: Diseases

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's programmes to tackle non-communicable diseases in developing countries. [91621]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's health focus is to improve the provision of basic health services for the poorest by supporting health systems strengthening, health worker capacity and access to essential medicines. Increasing coverage, equity, access and quality within the health system will strengthen services to identify, prioritise and address all causes of ill health including non-communicable diseases. We regularly monitor our programmes to ensure that they are meeting their objectives.

The Global Status report on non-communicable diseases 2010, published in 2011 by the World Health Organisation (WHO), contains information on the most cost effective approaches for tackling non-communicable diseases (NCDs), as well as information on the availability of procedures to treat NCDs in the different regions of the world.

Developing Countries: Multinational Companies

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department works in partnership with *(a)* Nestlé and *(b)* other multinational companies on programmes in developing countries. [91619]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is not working directly in partnership with Nestlé on programmes in developing countries. DFID does support Fairtrade International, who work with Nestlé on their Fairtrade products.

DFID works in partnership with a range of multinational companies through our bilateral and multilateral programmes, including the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund, Business Innovation Facility and Business Call to Action.

Diseases

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of levels of *(a)* cardiovascular disease, *(b)* cancer, *(c)* chronic lung diseases and *(d)* diabetes in (i) Eastern and Southern Africa, (ii) West and Central Africa, (iii) the Middle East and North Africa, (iv) South Asia, (v) Central Asia, (vi) East Asia and the Pacific, (vii) the Caribbean, (viii) Europe, (ix) Latin America and (x) the UK's Overseas Territories. [91620]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) tracks the burden of non-communicable diseases through the Global Status report published by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The 2010 report, which was published in 2011, contains information on the burden of non-communicable diseases

(NCDs) by the six WHO regions. In addition it contains information on the extent of the underlying risk factors for NCDs, such as tobacco use and high blood pressure. The report also includes country specific data and can be seen at

http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/ncd_report2010/en/

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department plans to respond to the letter of 5 October 2011 and email of 10 November 2011 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay regarding a constituent, Mr James Lowe. [91882]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: My hon. Friend's letter to the Minister of State, Department for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Mr Duncan), of 5 October was transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for reply, since the questions from Mr James Lowe covered the Israel/Palestine conflict which is an FCO lead. The FCO Minister responsible for our relations with the middle east, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), replied on 31 October on behalf of the Government.

Somalia: International Co-operation

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what international development objectives he has set for the international conference on Somalia on 23 February 2012. [91965]

Mr O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 12 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 429W.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has allocated to Yemen for 2012. [91135]

Mr Duncan: Because of the uncertainty around the environment in which we will be delivering our aid programme next year, we are not yet in a position to confirm our proposed assistance to Yemen for 2012-13. We are hopeful that political transition progresses successfully and that we are able to scale up our aid to Yemen significantly.

JUSTICE

Appeals: Hull

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average length of time was from receipt of *(a)* an income support, *(b)* a tax credits and *(c)* a disability living allowance appeal to the clearance or disposal of the case (i) nationally and (ii) at the Hull venue in each month since April 2008; [91553]

(2) what the average length of time taken was from receipt of an appeal under the Mental Health Act 1983 to the clearance or disposal of the case *(a)* nationally and *(b)* at the Hull venue in each month since April 2008; [91554]

(3) what the average length of time taken was from receipt of an immigration appeal to the clearance or disposal of the case *(a)* nationally and *(b)* at the Hull venue in each month since April 2008. [91555]

Mr Djanogly: The Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) Tribunal, the Mental Health (MH) Tribunal and the Immigration and Asylum (IA) Tribunal each hear appeals of different types and complexity, have different requirements for the composition of panels and different hearing lengths, all of which has an impact on the time taken to dispose of cases. The waiting times are therefore not directly comparable between jurisdictions.

The following tables show the average time taken in weeks from receipt of an appeal by Her Majesty's Court and Tribunals Service until the date of disposal of the case nationally and in Hull (except for the Mental Health Tribunal, for which it is not possible to provide data specific to Hull as its database does not store information by area, hospital or NHS Trust) in each month since April 2008.

Social Security and Child Support appeals—average waiting times in weeks

Weeks

	2008-09											
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
National												
Income support	8.5	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.9	10.7	9.7	12.8	13.0	13.9	13.2	14.0
Tax credits	8.2	17.3	8.0	8.1	18.4	9.5	8.6	12.2	15.2	12.0	12.4	11.7
Disability living allowance (DLA)	10.5	11.0	11.3	11.8	11.8	12.1	11.9	14.1	14.0	15.5	15.3	15.3
Hull												
Income support	11.5	9.9	15.3	14.9	16.6	14.8	7.4	8.7	12.5	39.8	9.2	13.4
Tax credits	3.8	4.3	6.6	22.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0

Social Security and Child Support appeals—average waiting times in weeks

Weeks

	2008-09											
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
DLA	14.3	10.4	13.0	12.2	11.0	12.8	11.0	17.1	15.1	17.3	15.5	14.5

Weeks

	2009-10											
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
National												
Income support	14.6	15.1	16.7	16.1	15.2	16.5	16.0	16.8	16.8	16.5	16.7	17.7
Tax credits	14.6	13.6	12.1	11.6	11.7	12.6	13.5	15.7	17.0	17.3	14.3	22.7
DLA	15.7	15.3	15.5	15.9	15.2	15.5	15.9	16.4	16.0	17.3	18.2	18.9
Hull												
Income support	8.5	10.6	11.5	10.0	22.4	15.5	10.5	15.5	15.1	22.7	11.1	15.9
Tax credits	15.1	9.4	19.2	18.5	3.4	0.0	0.0	23.0	10.3	0.0	0.0	17.7
DLA	14.9	0.0	11.0	13.1	19.3	14.1	12.2	13.9	13.7	20.8	16.2	17.5

Weeks

	2010-11											
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
National												
Income support	18.0	17.3	17.4	19.7	18.7	20.2	20.6	19.6	20.1	20.3	22.7	24.5
Tax credits	12.7	12.4	13.7	13.9	16.2	15.9	15.6	16.0	16.1	17.6	17.3	16.7
DLA	19.8	19.5	20.3	21.2	21.6	21.6	22.3	22.8	23.7	26.3	25.7	27.6
Hull												
Income support	15.3	10.7	20.6	19.3	11.9	34.5	26.7	19.2	21.9	7.6	26.0	16.5
Tax credits	4.0	0.0	18.1	0.0	15.3	20.0	18.5	18.9	7.6	24.0	0.0	2.4
DLA	17.4	19.4	23.2	22.1	23.6	22.8	21.0	24.6	25.8	19.5	24.0	29.3

Weeks

	2011						
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
National							
Income support	22.9	25.2	24.8	26.3	27.4	26.6	25.4
Tax credits	16.6	18.2	16.0	19.3	18.8	19.5	17.4
DLA	27.9	28.3	28.5	29.1	28.7	28.2	28.3
Hull							
Income support	8.8	7.9	24.4	20.1	10.4	22.1	8.3
Tax credits	1.0	9.2	13.0	6.8	0.0	1.6	2.4
DLA	23.0	24.5	24.8	28.7	28.5	31.1	31.2

Note:

Individual cases can have a disproportionate impact on the overall data at venue level due to the relatively low volumes involved. Figures are available for October 2011 for SSCS but not for MH or IA. This is because statistics were, exceptionally, published for SSCS from January until October 2011.

Waiting times within the SSCS tribunal have increased as a result of increased numbers of appeals following reforms in the welfare benefit system. Appeals to the SSCS tribunal in 2010-11 were over 70% higher than they were in 2008-09. The SSCS tribunal has responded strongly by increasing its capacity to deal with the increased workload. It has increased the number of tribunal sessions held, recruited administrative staff, judges and other panel members, introduced more efficient processes and extended opening times. Additional panel members for the Hull venue have been appointed and will take up their roles in the spring. This will further improve capacity at Hull.

Mental Health appeals—average waiting times

The First-tier Tribunal Mental Health hears applications and references for people detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 (as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007) or living in the community following the making of a conditional discharge, or a community treatment or guardianship order.

Section 2 cases are appeals made by an individual against their admission to a secure hospital for assessment. Hearings must take place within seven days of receipt of the appeal application by the tribunal.

'Restricted': Appeals against restriction orders (from a court) or a restriction direction (e.g. for a prisoner transferred to hospital).

'Non-restricted': Appeals against the application of provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983 (as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007) which do not fall into the above two categories.

The following tables show national data only. The Mental Health Tribunal database does not store information by area, hospital or NHS trust so it is not possible to provide data specific to Hull.

Mental Health—average waiting times in weeks

Weeks

	2008-09											
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Section 2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Restricted	16	16	16	16	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Non-restricted	10	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

Weeks

	2009-10											
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Section 2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Restricted	15	14	14	14	13	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Non-restricted	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

Weeks

	2010-11											
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Section 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Restricted	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	13
Non-restricted	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8

Weeks

	2011					
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*
Section 2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Restricted	14	13	13	13	13	12
Non-restricted	8	8	7	8	8	8

Note:
The Mental Health Tribunal database does not provide statistics on waiting times. The figures provided are therefore estimates based on time bands rather than on the exact length of time taken in individual cases.

Immigration appeals—average waiting times

The Immigration and Asylum jurisdiction deals with appeals against refusal decisions by the UK Border Agency (UKBA), acting for the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on matters of immigration and nationality.

Immigration entry clearance officer appeals (ECO) are appeals made by people who are not in the UK, but who have applied to live here permanently. They also include appeals based on specific human rights or racial discrimination grounds, arising from the points-based system for visa applications.

Managed migration appeals are made by people who are already in the UK and are either seeking to stay permanently or to stay longer than they are currently entitled to.

The figures provided are for the Bradford tribunal venue, which hears appeals from appellants from Hull as well as other nearby locations.

Immigration and Asylum—average waiting times in weeks

Weeks

	2008-09											
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
National												
Immigration ECO	26.0	26.3	26.3	27.9	27.4	27.2	26.8	26.1	26.8	27.9	27.5	26.5
Managed migration	9.3	9.2	9.5	8.9	9.2	8.8	8.9	8.4	8.2	8.9	8.4	8.4

Immigration and Asylum—average waiting times in weeks

Weeks

	2008-09 *Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Bradford tribunal venue												
Immigration ECO	24.8	24.7	24.8	26.1	26.3	27.8	27.1	26.3	27.0	26.4	28.1	26.3
Managed migration	7.4	8.5	9.0	7.7	8.0	8.8	9.4	9.3	10.9	8.7	9.3	8.1

Weeks

	2009-10 *Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
National												
Immigration ECO	27.7	28.2	30.0	32.1	31.1	31.5	34.2	34.2	34.9	34.7	31.7	33.4
Managed migration	8.7	9.0	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.9	10.0	10.0	12.4	13.2	12.9	15.8
Bradford tribunal venue												
Immigration ECO	26.5	27.6	30.3	29.5	28.3	31.2	32.7	31.9	35.4	35.1	34.4	33.4
Managed migration	7.0	8.7	10.4	9.1	9.4	9.0	9.9	8.5	9.9	10.3	9.5	9.3

Weeks

	2010-11 *Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
National												
Immigration ECO	29.7	28.2	29.0	31.7	31.0	28.8	28.7	29.6	25.2	25.7	27.6	26.5
Managed Migration	15.0	17.3	16.7	17.1	16.8	16.0	15.1	13.7	11.6	11.3	10.8	9.7
Bradford tribunal venue												
Immigration ECO	29.7	26.5	27.0	28.8	27.7	27.2	26.7	24.2	25.4	28.0	25.6	27.5
Managed migration	9.0	11.0	10.9	9.5	8.1	9.4	7.2	8.2	11.5	10.6	9.5	8.1

Weeks

	2011-12 *Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*
National						
Immigration ECO	26.7	31.7	28.9	28.0	26.8	25.0
Managed migration	9.2	9.9	12.3	11.3	8.5	8.5
Bradford tribunal venue						
Immigration ECO	26.6	27.0	26.8	23.8	26.7	28.8
Managed migration	7.8	10.0	10.0	7.4	7.3	9.7

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of days was between *(a)* application and decision on eligibility and *(b)* decision on eligibility and payment for those seeking compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in each year from 1997 to 2011 inclusive. [91500]

Mr Djanogly: CICA's database does not distinguish between decisions on eligibility and quantum because claims officers must decide both before they can record a decision on the database. The following table shows the average number of calendar days between CICA receiving an application and a decision for cases decided in each calendar year, in answer to *(a)*.

To ensure CICA's application of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is as robust as possible all applicants can ask for a review of their case if they are unhappy with the decision. If the applicant remains unhappy after the review they can appeal to the first-tier tribunal. Since decisions at review or appeal are not bound by the previous decisions on eligibility or quantum, the figures for the answer to *(b)* reflect the average number of days between CICA (or the first-tier tribunal) making the decision the applicant ultimately accepted and CICA receiving the applicant's formal acceptance (all applicants have 90 calendar days in which to return this).

Figures for earlier years are artificially lower because the tariff scheme was only established in 1996, so cases that took several years to decide will raise the average of the years in which they were decided.

	Average calendar days to decision (a)	Average calendar days to accept an offer (b)
1997	215	22
1998	250	24
1999	253	26
2000	252	27
2001	284	28
2002	297	28
2003	311	28
2004	305	28
2005	342	30
2006	356	29
2007	372	49
2008	322	32
2009	310	55
2010	239	33
2011	243	32

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for criminal injuries compensation were received from applicants serving custodial sentences or on remand in each year from 1997 to 2011 inclusive; for what reasons; and what total value of compensation was paid to those applicants in each year. [91501]

Mr Djanogly: CICA do not hold that information in their central database. Paragraphs 13 (l)(e) and 14(3) of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2008, when taken together, mean that a claims officer must reduce or withhold compensation if the applicant has unspent criminal convictions unless there are exceptional reasons not to do so. Previous schemes had similar provisions. CICA publish the specific guidance their claims officers use to deal with unspent criminal convictions. That guidance shows that serving prisoners incur a 100% reduction so it is unlikely that CICA will compensate a serving prisoner.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for criminal injuries compensation were *(a)* ruled out because the applicant had a criminal record and *(b)* granted to applicants with a criminal record in each year from 1997 to 2011 inclusive; and what total value of compensation was paid to those with a criminal record in each year. [91502]

Mr Djanogly: The figures are given in the following table. These figures reflect only cases where a claims officer reduced or withheld an award due to unspent convictions because that is the only data CICA's central database holds regarding criminal records. The current (2008) compensation scheme says claims officers must refuse or reduce compensation where the applicant has unspent convictions unless there are exceptional reasons not do so. But there are cases still being considered under previous schemes that didn't make such reductions compulsory. The number of awards paid to those with unspent convictions is therefore likely to be higher—particularly for the years before 2008.

	Number of cases refused for unspent convictions (a)	Number of awards reduced for unspent convictions (b)	Total value of awards paid (£)
1997	1,879	714	1,252,378
1998	2,840	1,233	2,504,845
1999	2,230	1,484	3,121,781
2000	2,430	1,312	2,833,142
2001	2,615	1,275	3,156,815
2002	2,796	1,405	3,642,210
2003	2,570	1,453	4,198,745
2004	2,840	1,454	4,064,390
2005	3,478	1,408	4,789,529
2006	3,717	1,528	5,709,034
2007	3,838	1,604	5,518,840
2008	3,818	1,997	8,293,260
2009	4,445	3,133	12,257,770
2010	4,230	2,928	11,798,506
2011	3,726	3,092	14,904,760

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding he allocated to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in each year from 1997 to 2011. [90754]

Mr Djanogly: The funding allocated to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) for each year from 1997 to 2011 is shown in the following table:

Financial year	Funds allocated (£ million)
1997-98	84.0
1998-99	114.6
1999-2000	115.8
2000-01	193.8
2001-02	223.0
2002-03	227.1
2003-04	215.6
2004-05	183.0
2005-06	193.4
2006-07	199.1
2007-08	224.5
2008-09	254.5
2009-10	254.2
2010-11	294.5

Please note, the table:

includes the capital funding and working capital grants provided to CICA to pay approved compensations, which have been accrued in the previous period. The working capital grant in 2010-11 was £20 million;

excludes the Scottish Government contribution towards its proportion of the costs of administering the scheme and for the full cost of all tariff compensation payments where the injury was sustained in Scotland;

excludes funds allocated to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, which the authority effectively superseded in 1996 but which continued to pay for legacy cases and produce separate accounts until 1999-2000—which is why the authority's funds are lower for these years.

As the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is demand-led, the Department keeps the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority's funding requirements under constant review. In addition to the funding provided at the supplementary stages, in certain years the Department also provides CICA with additional funding after the

Spring (Final) Supplementary to settle those cases which have become ready for decision and payment before the end of the year.

Criminal Proceedings

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which offences are triable only in *(a)* Crown courts and *(b)* magistrates' courts; and which offences are triable in either magistrates' or Crown courts. [91506]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is to be found in the "Criminal Justice Statistics", but as the relevant table is available only online, at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice-stats/offence-classifications.xls

a copy of it has been placed in the Library of both Houses. The first part of the table shows indictable offences, of which those marked TEW are triable either in the Crown court or summarily, and the remainder are triable only in the Crown court; the second part of the table lists offences that are triable only summarily.

	Number of cases refused for unspent convictions (a)	*Number of awards reduced for unspent convictions (b)*	*Total value of awards paid (£)*
1997	1,879	714	1,252,378
1998	2,840	1,233	2,504,845
1999	2,230	1,484	3,121,781
2000	2,430	1,312	2,833,142
2001	2,615	1,275	3,156,815
2002	2,796	1,405	3,642,210
2003	2,570	1,453	4,198,745
2004	2,840	1,454	4,064,390
2005	3,478	1,408	4,789,529
2006	3,717	1,528	5,709,034
2007	3,838	1,604	5,518,840
2008	3,818	1,997	8,293,260
2009	4,445	3,133	12,257,770
2010	4,230	2,928	11,798,506
2011	3,726	3,092	14,904,760

Legal Aid Scheme

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many case starts were awarded legal aid in each local authority in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [91567]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Manoucehr Bahmanzadeh

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the £1 million which Manoucehr Bahmanzadeh was ordered by Plymouth Crown court to pay under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, following his sentencing on 21 July 2008, has been paid. [91951]

Mr Blunt: The confiscation order of £1 million in the name of Manoucehr Bahmanzadeh has been paid in full, plus an additional £19,977.60 of accrued interest for late payment. The order was due to be paid by 27 March 2011. The order was paid in full by the end of June 2011 and the accrued interest was paid on 10 August 2011.

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted criminals had their sentences increased for non-payment of money owed under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each year since its enactment. [91966]

Mr Blunt: Information requested is not held as separate data on the court system that can be extracted without an individual search of each confiscation order record.

Solicitors: Harrow

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of firms of solicitors in the London borough of Harrow with legal aid contracts in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; for what purposes these contracts are held; and if he will make a statement. [91934]

Mr Djanogly: There are 25 provider offices with legal aid contracts in Harrow in the financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13. Of these, eight have an active crime contract, 15 have an active civil contract and two have both a crime and civil contract.

Family services are not currently included in the civil contract. The outcome of the recent family (and family with housing) tender will be announced in February and will show provision for 2012-13.

In addition to face to face services, the public can get help with civil and family problems through community legal advice which includes telephone and internet based services.

Work Capability Assessment

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost has been of Tribunal Service operations relating to appeals in respect of the work capability assessment in 2011-12 to date. [91935]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) hears appeals against Department for Work and Pensions decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) (decisions in which the work capability assessment is a key factor) rather than appeals against work capability assessment decisions themselves.

The estimated total cost of the 112,320 ESA appeals disposed of from April 2011 to October 2011 in which the work capability assessment was a factor is £26.844 million.

These estimated costs were calculated by multiplying the average cost of an individual first-tier tribunal—Social Security and Child Support case in 2010-11 (the latest period for which these data are available)—by the number of ESA appeals disposed of in which the work capability assessment was a factor.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Agriculture

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support agricultural apprenticeships and vocational training in the agricultural sector. [91765]

Mr Hayes: The Apprenticeship Programme is our preferred vocational route. It is demand led, therefore expanding and improving the Apprenticeship offer depends on businesses taking the opportunity to employ apprentices.

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) works with employers and training providers to increase their participation in Apprenticeship delivery and are particularly working with Land Based Training, (LANTRA), the sector skills council for Land based and Environmental Industries, to increase growth of Apprenticeships in agricultural areas.

Recent announcements on measures to expand opportunities and boost the quality of Apprenticeships apply across all sectors. In particular, up to 40,000 incentive payments of £1,500 will be made available for small employers who take on their first new young apprentice. This may be particularly relevant to the Agricultural sector.

We have seen growth in the number of Apprenticeship starts in Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care sector in the 2010/11 academic year, based on provisional data (Table 1).

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in the agriculture, horticulture and animal care sector subject area, 2008/09 to 2010/11 (provisional data)

	Apprenticeship starts
2008/09	5,210
2009/10	5,690
2010/11 (provisional)	6,870

Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on Apprenticeship starts by framework and sector subject areas are available in the SFR Supplementary Tables:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_supplementary_tables/Apprenticeship_sfr_supplementary_tables/

Company Accounts

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to adjust the filing penalties in Section 453 of the Companies Act 2006 to take account of the size of the company. [92218]

Mr Davey: The level of fine imposed for the late filing of accounts depends on how late the accounts are submitted to the Registrar.

The level of fines was carefully reviewed by Parliament during the passage of the Companies Act 2006, and it decided to have two penalty scales, one for public companies, who must file within six months, and one for private companies, who must file within nine months of their year end.

As part of the Government's Red Tape Challenge programme all regulations relating to company law are open to review by the public including those relating to late filing penalties.

Copyright: Internet

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the potential effect of proposed US legislation, the *(a)* Stop Online Piracy Act and *(b)* Protect IP Act on British businesses. [91611]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has made no assessment or received representations on the effect on the UK of measures contained in the US Stop Piracy Online Act.

Apprentices

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13. [89150]

Mr Hayes: The core Department for Business, Innovation and Skills allocated the following funding to sponsor apprenticeship in the Department in:

(a) 2010-11—£20,000

(b) 2011-12—£50,000

and plans to allocate between £10,000 and £15,000 in 2012-13.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprentices were employed by his Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he plans that his Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89205]

Mr Hayes: The core Department for Business, Innovation and Skills employed 30 apprentices between April 2010 and March 2011 and 14 apprentices between April and December 2011. The Department has no plans to sponsor additional apprentices between January and March 2012. The Department currently anticipates sponsoring between six and 10 apprentices between April 2012 and March 2013.

Employment: Arbitration

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on a rapid resolution scheme for employment disputes; and if he will make a statement. [91861]

Mr Davey: Officials in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are working closely with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service and Ministry of Justice colleagues to consider whether and how any rapid resolution scheme might work. We will consult with key stakeholders as we develop options in more detail and will undertake a full public consultation on the detail once this work is complete.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress he has made on developing a simplified form of compromise agreements following the Government's response to the resolving workplace disputes consultation. [91862]

Mr Davey: Officials in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are considering how we can develop a standard text, together with the appropriate guidance, that will be available to parties to use should they wish to settle an employment dispute without proceeding to a Tribunal. We will make an announcement in due course.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to receive the report of Justice Underhill on the review of rules and procedures for employment tribunals. [91863]

Mr Davey: I have invited Mr Justice Underhill to present BIS Ministers with recommendations for revised rules of procedure for employment tribunals by the end of April 2012.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the timetable is for the consultation on protected conversations. [91864]

Mr Davey: We expect to launch a consultation on protected conversations later this year.

Green Investment Bank

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable he has set for consideration of proposals for the site of the Green Investment Bank; and whether he plans to publish a shortlist before the site is chosen. [91818]

Mr Prisk: More than 20 locations across the UK have indicated that they would be interested in hosting the headquarters of the Green Investment Bank (GIB).

Interested locations have been asked to self-assess against a common set of criteria, to demonstrate whether they would be an effective base for the GIB. The deadline for the submission of self assessments is 30 January. All self assessments received will be reviewed by the Department. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), will then publish his decision, with accompanying reasons, in February. All submissions received will also be published.

Higher Education

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the speech to the Policy Exchange of 4 January 2012 by the Minister of State for Universities and Science, which UK universities are in the top 100 in the world. [91289]

Mr Willetts: The UK universities in the top 100 of the rankings referred to in the Policy Exchange speech are as follows:

The World University Rankings 2011-12 (12 universities)

Oxford (4), Cambridge (6), Imperial College (8), UCL (17), Edinburgh (36), LSE (47), Manchester (48), King's College (56), Bristol (66), Durham (83), St Andrews (85), Sussex (99)

QS World University Rankings 2011-12 (19 universities)

Cambridge (1), Oxford (5), Imperial College (6), UCL (7), Edinburgh (20), King's College (27), Manchester (29), Bristol (30), Warwick (50), Glasgow (59), LSE (64), Birmingham (67), Sheffield (72), Nottingham (74), Southampton (75), Leeds (93), Durham (95), York (96), St Andrews (97)

ARWU 2011 (10 universities)

Cambridge (5), Oxford (10), UCL (20), Imperial College (24), Manchester (38), Edinburgh (53), King's College (68), Bristol (70), Nottingham (85), Sheffield (97)

Higher Education: Admissions

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in each parliamentary constituency applied to study at Oxford and Cambridge universities in 2011. [88821]

Mr Willetts: The information is shown in a table provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications to and offers by each *(a)* Russell Group and *(b)* 1994 Group university were made in the 2010-11 admissions cycle to home students in each local education authority (LEA) area; and how many and what proportion of such applicants and other recipients in each LEA were educated at (i) maintained and (ii) independent schools. [88928]

Mr Willetts: The information is not available centrally. The University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), hold the information but they have advised that they cannot release it because the publication of such detailed information for individual institutions would be potentially disclosive of individuals.

Manufacturing Industries

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on support for the manufacturing sector; and if he will make a statement. [91342]

Mr Prisk: We fully recognise the importance of manufacturing, its vital contribution to the growth of a more sustainable UK economy and its key role in rebalancing the economy. Working with business, we are taking steps to strengthen UK manufacturing's capability, ensuring a better business environment that will address barriers to growth, encourage innovation, exports and business investment, build UK supply chains and improve skills. The Government have put in place a range of initiatives to support manufacturing growth, including the Manufacturing Advisory Service, the Regional Growth Fund, Higher Level Apprenticeships and Catapult Centres.

As part of the Autumn Statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, we announced a package worth £250 million that will reduce the impact of energy and climate change policies on the cost of electricity for those energy intensive industries, whose international competitiveness is most affected by these policies. In addition, on 6 December we launched a £125 million challenge fund to boost UK advanced manufacturing supply chains.

We are making good progress in implementing the actions announced as part of the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Review: we have already met just under 50% of the reforms announced in March and reached significant milestones on the rest. However we want to continue engaging with industry to adapt and develop our policies further to meet changing circumstances and needs. Therefore we are holding a Manufacturing Summit at the Bristol and Bath Science Park in February to discuss and agree with industry what more should be done to help us grow manufacturing in the UK.

Patents

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many patents were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* approved in each region in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [91556]

Mr Davey: The following two tables give the number of patents *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted in each UK region for the calendar years 2006-10. The data are available in separate publications from:

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ourpublications-review.htm

(a) Number of UK national patent applications filed by region 2006 to 2010

Region	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
East Midlands	768	778	747	738	712
East of England	2,082	2,063	1,992	1,844	1,984
London	3,075	3,103	2,883	2,752	2,584
North West	1,537	1,425	1,447	1,369	1,246
Northern Ireland	238	215	253	213	240
North East	357	355	356	382	331
Scotland	1,131	1,145	1,100	1,074	1,001
South East	3,106	2,962	2,892	2,777	2,810
South West	1,764	1,719	1,582	1,644	1,639
Wales	652	765	705	682	550
West Midlands	1,219	1,188	1,041	1,049	1,057
Yorkshire	1,301	1,232	1,280	1,246	1,144
Postcode not given/ incomplete address	254	425	245	215	192
Total	17,484	17375	16,523	15,985	15,490

(b) Number of UK national patents granted by region 2006 to 2010

Region	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
East Midlands	128	96	109	114	111
East of England	371	284	272	302	288
London	524	316	361	292	382
North West	254	187	167	192	201
Northern Ireland	13	11	10	11	7
North East	82	33	32	37	41
Scotland	138	130	117	127	169
South East	607	428	411	421	472
South West	344	207	212	209	244
Wales	88	62	60	67	66
West Midlands	234	149	159	167	163
Yorkshire	150	125	132	146	141
Postcode not given/ incomplete address	45	30	28	33	38
Total	2,978	2,058	2,070	2,118	2,323

Postal Services

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on making Government services available at post offices. [90903]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement entitled "Post Office Network", published on 24 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 8WS.

Unfair Dismissal: Compensation

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the timetable is for his Department's consultation on compensated no-fault dismissals for small businesses. [90980]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), announced in November that Government would seek evidence on the idea of introducing compensated no-fault dismissal for micro firms (i.e. firms which employ fewer than 10 staff). My officials are currently seeking views on progressing this and we will publish a formal call for evidence in due course. Decisions on whether to consult further will not be taken until the ensuing evidence has been fully assessed.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the meeting note of 8 November 2011, for the Animal Health and Welfare Board (AWHB), whether the AWHB's plans to co-opt additional members are standard practice for recruitment procedure; and if she will assess the transparency and fairness of this method of recruitment for public bodies. [90579]

Mr Paice: The board's terms of reference set out that the appointment of the Chair and other non-executive members will be conducted in an open and transparent manner.

The board is applying a similar process for appointing co-opted non-executive members to that for appointing the original non-executive members. The process is rigorous and follows the key principles set out in the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' (OCPA) Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications Natural England is considering for the designation of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and for which areas such applications have been made. [91383]

Richard Benyon: It is ordinarily for Natural England (NE) to make an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation which, in the light of public consultation and, where appropriate, following a public inquiry, must be confirmed by the Secretary of State before they come into operation.

I understand that a number of suggestions (there is no mechanism for "applications" as such) have been made to NE for new AONBs, or extensions of existing ones. The following table lists the suggestions NE has received.

Case name

Blackdown Hills AONB (extension)
Breckland (new AONB)
Cannock Chase AONB (extension)
Charnwood (new AONB)
Chilterns AONB 1 (retraction)
Chilterns AONB 2 (extension)
Chilterns AONB 3 (extension)
Churnet Valley (new AONB)
Cornwall AONB (extension)
Cotswolds AONB (extension)
Cotswolds AONB 2 (extension)
Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB (extension)
Dedham Vale AONB (extension)
Dorset AONB (extension)
Dorset AONB 2 (extension)
East Devon AONB (extension)
Forest of Dean (new AONB)
Herefordshire Black Mountains (new AONB)
Lincolnshire (new AONB)
Lincolnshire Wolds AONB (extension)
Malvern Hills AONB (extension)
Mendip Hills AONB (extension)
New Devon AONB (extension)
Norfolk Coast AONB (extension)
Norfolk Coast AONB 2 (extension)
North Devon AONB (extension)
North Kent Downs AONB (extension)
North Kent Downs AONB 2 (extension)
North Kent Downs AONB 3 (extension)
North Wessex Downs AONB (extension)
Northumberland Coast AONB (extension)
Otmoor (new AONB)
Rutland (new AONB)
Solway Coast AONB (extension)
Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB (extension)
Surrey Hills AONB (extension)
Kent Greensands (new AONB)
Yorkshire Wolds (new AONB).

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if she will make a statement. [91104]

Richard Benyon: In 2011, £2,011 was spent on Christmas trees (including decorations) for buildings occupied by core-DEFRA.

Common Land

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the total amount of common land in England *(a)* in hectares and *(b)* as a proportion of the total land mass; and if she will make a statement. [91355]

Richard Benyon: There are 399,040 hectares of common land in England, which equates to approximately three percent of the total land area. This figure includes the New Forest, Epping Forest and certain other commons exempted from registration under the Commons Registration Act 1965. These exempted areas account for 25,470 hectares of common land.

Expenditure: Drinks

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on *(a)* wine, *(b)* other alcoholic refreshments and *(c)* bottled water since May 2010. [91635]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not keep a central record which will identify this information and cannot therefore provide an accurate figure without incurring disproportionate costs.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of full-time equivalent staff in her Department engaged in delivering *(a)* front line and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if she will make a statement. [91103]

Richard Benyon: Core-DEFRA employs a variety of staff working in a wide range of areas, including policy development, analysis, research and support functions. We have not carried out a detailed analysis according to the categories in the question.

EU Law

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the regulations her Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88969]

Richard Benyon: The number of regulations brought into force by the DEFRA through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means which either fully or in part originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011 is shown in the following table.

	2010	*2011*
(a) Primary legislation	0	0
(b) Secondary legislation	45	38
(c) Other means	0	0

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which EU *(a)* directives, *(b)* regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting her Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate she has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89691]

Richard Benyon: EU directives affecting DEFRA and requiring transposition into UK law are as follows:

2009/128/EC: Establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides

2010/60/EU: Providing for certain derogations for marketing of fodder plant seed mixtures intended for use in the preservation of the natural environment

2009/126/EC: On Stage II petrol vapour recovery during refuelling of motor vehicles at service stations

2010/79/EC: On the adaptation to technical progress of Annex III to Directive 22004/42/EC on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds

2010/75/EC: On industrial emission (integrated pollution prevention and control)

2011/97/EC: As regards specific waste criteria for the storage of metallic mercury considered as waste.

For these directives, DEFRA will need to develop policy options for implementation and then consult on them before costs can be fully determined. Once a decision on the policy option is made, final impact assessments detailing both costs and benefits will be made public and placed in the Government's online impact assessment library:

http://www.ialibrary.bis.gov.uk/

EU regulations are legally binding and directly applicable in all member states and therefore do not require transposition into domestic law.

DEFRA recently conducted a review of all of its existing legislation, including that which is derived from the EU, and has published an initial report on the costs and benefits of its regulatory stock:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/16/pb13623-defra-regulatory-stock

We will be doing further work to refine and update the document.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether her Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany; on which dates those regulations became EU law; and if she will make a statement; [90695]

(2) which EU regulations her Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if she will make a statement. [90710]

Richard Benyon: Information on the implementation of EU legislation by all EU member states is compiled by the European Commission, as part of its role as guardian of the EU Treaties. The Commission's most recent annual report on national implementation of EU law is publicly available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/eu_law/infringements/infringements_annual_report_28_en.htm

Fisheries: ICT

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on whether there should be a global requirement for vessel monitoring system satellite tracking devices to be fitted to all fishing vessels. [91668]

Richard Benyon: Vessel monitoring systems provide a reliable means of verifying the accuracy of reports submitted by fishermen of their fishing operations and make a significant contribution towards the prevention of illegal fishing activity. I have supported EU control measures that have extended the requirement for all EU fishing vessels over 12 metres to have working satellite tracking devices on board wherever in the world they operate. The United Kingdom has also supported the adoption and operation of such measures by regional fisheries management organisations and third countries as a valuable means of monitoring fishing activity.

The value of using satellite based technology on smaller, inshore vessels is less clear and presents different technical challenges. The Marine Management Organisation has therefore been engaged in trials of alternative, non-satellite based technology for such vessels.

Furs: Origin Labelling

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on the introduction of country of origin labelling so that consumers can make fully-informed choices on the purchase of products made from fur. [90590]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) Ministers have had no discussions with EU counterparts on the introduction of country of origin labelling on products made from fur.

Health

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition her Department uses of well-being in society. [90807]

Richard Benyon: Well-being is central to the Government's vision for mainstreaming Sustainable Development in Government that was published in February 2011.

The Office for National Statistics programme on measuring national well-being recently initiated a debate on national well-being and how it should be measured. The findings from the debate, which are now being used to consult on proposed domains and headline indicators of national well-being, are available on the ONS website.

Hunting: Sports

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government classifies hunting with hounds as a field sport. [91661]

Mr Paice: The Government have no responsibility for deciding whether or not particular activities are classified as field sports.

Otters

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the *(a)* size and *(b)* location of the wild otter population in England in the last 20 years; and if she will make a statement. [91167]

Richard Benyon: It is currently not possible to estimate otter abundance from the quantity and distribution of otter signs and sightings. Research investigating the possibility of assessing numbers of otters from DNA or chemical analysis of spraint (otter faeces) is ongoing.

Three national otter surveys have been carried out in England in the last 20 years—in 1991-94, 2000-02 and 2009-10. Direct comparison of the 2,940 sites used in all three of these surveys reveals that the number of sites showing signs of otters has increased from 23.4% in 1991-94, to 36.3% in 2000-02, and again to 58.8% in 2009-10. Since the publication of the last report otter signs in Kent have confirmed that the species is now present throughout England.

Reed Beds

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many hectares of reedbed in National Nature Reserves are managed on a sustainable basis to produce reed for thatching and panel fencing; [91274]

(2) how many hectares of reedbed in National Nature Reserves are managed by long-term rotational cutting and burning. [91276]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and its agencies do not hold information centrally for all National Nature Reserves (NNRs). For those NNRs in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, reserve managers have estimated that approximately 78 hectares of reed bed are cut commercially with the reeds used for thatching, reed screens and specialist paper making. They also estimate approximately 115 hectares of these NNRs are managed by long term rotational cutting.

Soil: Conservation

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received from the farming industry on soil protection regulations; and if she will make a statement. [91529]

Richard Benyon: In June 2010, the Government commissioned Richard Macdonald to conduct a review of farming regulation, partly in response to representation from the industry on this issue. The review, published in May 2011, was undertaken with extensive consultation with industry and other interested parties and included a number of recommendations relating to the Soil Protection Review 2010. In its interim response, published in November 2011, the Government set out their intentions to work with industry to review the Soil Protection Review with the aim of putting in place revised arrangements when the current arrangements end in 2013. A full response to the taskforce recommendations will be published shortly.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department provided to *(a)* The Art Room, *(b)* the National Portrait Gallery, *(c)* Mountain Rescue England, *(d)* the English Schools Swimming Association, *(e)* the Scout Association and *(f)* Missing Links UK in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [90749]

Richard Benyon: In the financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12 to date, core-DEFRA has not funded any of the organisations listed.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the Big Society initiative; and if she will make a statement. [91394]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA's business plan sets out clear priorities for the Department including what we are putting in place to support the growth of Big Society. We continue to report publicly on progress against these priorities at:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/transparency/srp/

Within DEFRA this includes reporting progress on initiatives such as the Big Tree Plant and the new Waterways Charity Project.

Trees: Planning Permission

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans she has to use the revised National Planning Policy Framework to promote tree planting; [91666]

(2) whether it is her policy to seek increased protection for ancient woods and trees in the final version of the National Planning Policy Framework. [91667]

Mr Paice: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is still considering consultation responses and these, and other issues, will be taken into account as the National Planning Policy Framework is finalised. I understand that DCLG will publish the final version of the National Planning Policy Framework by the end of March this year.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has asked the Independent Panel on Forestry for advice on ancient woodlands and on an appropriate level of woodland cover in England. The Government look forward to the submission of the panel's final report this spring.

Waste Disposal

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the Office of Fair Trading's market study on organic waste; [91515]

(2) whether her Department plans to respond to the Office of Fair Trading's market study on market waste. [91516]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is carefully considering the Office of Fair Trading's market study on organic waste and is currently discussing its recommendations with OFWAT. We will take into account the report's findings as part of ongoing work to clarify the relevant environmental and economic regulatory frameworks that apply to the organic waste sector, and in developing robust quality standards for the end use of organic wastes.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on his Department's fund for supporting weekly waste collection. [91562]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs meets regularly to discuss matters of Government policy with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government including matters on waste policy including weekly waste collection.

Waste Disposal: Food

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice her Department gives local authorities on the treatment and disposal of food waste. [91563]

Richard Benyon: The Government encourage local authorities to manage their food waste sustainably and, through the waste and resources action programme, provides technical support on treatment options. However, decisions on the treatment and disposal of food waste are for local authorities to make, taking into account local circumstances including local logistics, the characteristics of the area, and the service that residents want.

Written Questions

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many ordinary written questions tabled to her Department by hon. Members since May 2010 have not received a reply within *(a)* one and *(b)* two months; and what the subject matter was of each such question. [91016]

Richard Benyon: Between May 2010 and 20 December 2011 core-DEFRA received 3,342 parliamentary questions for ordinary written answer, of which *(a)* 161 had not received a reply with one month and *(b)* a further 30 had not received a reply within two months.

A breakdown by subject is shown in the following table:

Subject	*(a) Reply received after one month*	*(b) Reply received after two months*
Finance and Procurement	53	10
HR and Staff issues	22	8
Animal Health and Welfare	21	2
Rural, Farming and Wildlife Issues	30	6
Other	35	4
Total	161	30

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 30 January 2012

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Birmingham

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had any discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the long-term effects on the *(a)* regional economy and *(b)* creative industries in the West Midlands of the BBC's plans to transfer work away from Birmingham. [92560]

Mr Vaizey: I have had no discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), on this matter.

The Government support regional television production as it benefits regional economies and is good for the UK's cultural diversity.

Within the framework of the BBC charter, however, the BBC is operationally and editorially independent of Government and there is no provision for Government to intervene. The BBC is required to meet quotas for television production outside of London, but it is for the BBC to determine how the quotas are achieved.

The BBC's Delivering Quality First (DQF) review includes a proposal to move factual programming for BBC television and Radio 4 out of Birmingham, but to increase television production investment with independent producers in the Midlands. The Government await the conclusions of the DQF review with interest.

The creative arts benefit from licence fee funding in a number of ways, for example, support for The Space, an exciting digital arts media project being run by the BBC in partnership with the Arts Council.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92109]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport publishes a quarterly disclosure log of all responses to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, which can found on its website at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/freedom_of_information/8489.aspx

This is in line with the guidance provided by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). DCMS does not routinely publish the response to each request. However, where a case is of wider public interest, the response is published on DCMS's transparency website at the following link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department publishes a breakdown of the types of work for which claims are made under the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme. [92249]

John Penrose: The Department does not publish a breakdown of the types of work for which claims are made under the Listed Places of Worship scheme. At the end of each quarter, we publish the value of the applications received and the applicable payable rate on the scheme's website. We also send reports to the Church of England, English Heritage, Cadw, Historic Scotland and the Department of Environment Northern Ireland each quarter which provides the following detail for each places of worship relevant to each organisation that has claimed a grant:

Name of listed place of worship

Local authority or council

Brief description of works

Total grant paid.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of claims made to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme concerned works made necessary by metal theft in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [92250]

John Penrose: This Department does not currently analyse claims on the scheme for repairs carried out as a result of metal theft. An analysis of claims from listed places of worship for roof repairs and leading, shows that there were 2,395 claims made between January 2011 and January 2012 (to date). From the beginning of the next financial year, we will begin to keep records of claims for repairs as a result of theft where the listed place of worship has declared this on the application form.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what change there was in the *(a)* number, *(b)* size and *(c)* nature of claims made to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme after the most recent changes to the scheme's eligibility criteria. [92251]

John Penrose: In October 2010, this Department announced that in line with the need to reduce public expenditure, the Listed Places of Worship scheme would return to the original scope of the scheme in the final quarter of 2010-11 and claims for professional fees and repairs to organs, pews, bells and clocks would be ineligible. These changes came into effect on 4 January 2011. The difference in the number and size of claims made on the scheme between January 2010 and December 2010 and between January 2011 and December 2011 are set out in the following table:

January to December 2010 analysis

Value	*Number of claims*	*Value of payments (£)*
£1 to £10,000	3,840	9,599,198.50
£10,000.01 to £20,000	289	3,869,553.57
£20,000.01 to £30,000	58	1,393,308.58
£30,000.01 to £40,000	17	580,226.34
£40,000.01 to £100,000	19	1,095,704.58
£100,000.01+	1	136,975.45
Total	4,224	16,674,967.02

January to December 2011 analysis

Value	*Number of claims*	*Value of payments (£)*
£1 to £10,000	3,278	7,513,188.36
£10,000.01 to £20,000	205	2,843,506.03
£20,000.01 to £30,000	40	994,074.67
£30,000.01 to £40,000	16	557,052.27
£40,000.01 to £100,000	16	961,742.64
£100,000.01+	5	842,283.69
Total	3,560	13,711,847.66

Following the announcement in October 2010, the scheme received a very high volume of claims as claimants submitted their applications before the changes to the scheme were introduced. There have been no notable changes to the nature of claims made after January 2011 apart from the ineligible works no longer being claimed.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent consideration he has given to undertaking a review of the ways in which the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme has operated following the recent changes to its eligibility criteria. [92253]

John Penrose: The changes to the eligibility of claims in the Listed Places of Worship scheme were introduced in January 2011 as a result of the need to reduce public expenditure and make efficiency savings on the scheme. A range of options were considered and stakeholders and faith groups were consulted ahead of this decision. There are no current plans to review this decision or its implications.

Monuments: Parliament Square

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what date each statue in Parliament square was erected; what legislation governs the location of statues in Parliament square; what statues have been proposed for Parliament square since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [92221]

John Penrose: The care, control, management and regulation of the central garden of Parliament square are the responsibility of the Greater London Authority (GLA). This Department does not collate information on these statues but information about the square, including its statues, is available on the GLA website:

http://www.london.gov.uk/parliamentsquare/about/statues.jsp

Section 5 of the Public Statues and (Metropolis) Act 1854 requires the consent of the Secretary of State to be obtained before a statue can be erected in a public place in the Metropolitan Police District of London (now, the area of Greater London, excluding the City of London, the inner Temple and the middle Temple).

Music: USA

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the US embassy and *(b)* US Citizenship and Immigration Services on the ability of UK musicians to obtain visas to tour or perform in the US. [92606]

Mr Vaizey: This Department, together with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is liaising closely with the US Administration as a whole on a range of issues around visas for UK musicians. The most recent meeting was in December and further meetings are planned. I am grateful to representatives from across the UK music industry for their support in informing these discussions.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with music industry representatives on the ability of musicians who wish to perform in the US to obtain a visa. [92609]

Mr Vaizey: My officials hosted a meeting with representatives of the UK music industry to discuss US visa issues on 15 December. The issue was also discussed at a meeting of the music industry's International Strategy Group on 18 January. We will continue to pursue the interests of UK musicians through dialogue with all interested parties.

National Lottery

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the ratio of income from lottery ticket sales to funds dispensed from the National Lottery in each region was in each of the last five years. [92381]

John Penrose: The National Lottery operator, Camelot, collects regional sales data based on their sales regions, which do not map to formal geographic regions and does not include a regional online sales breakdown. These regions are not comparable with those used for the location of Lottery grants awarded on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) Lottery Grants Database, so this information is not available.

Lottery funding is based on good causes and the impact it can have, not the location of ticket sales. Funding is awarded by the Lottery distributing bodies in response to competitive applications and taking account of their policy directions. DCMS's Lottery Grants Database, which uses information provided by the Lottery distributing bodies, provides details of Lottery grants that have been made, and is searchable online at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

Olympic Games 2012: Mass Media

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 10W, on Olympic Games 2012: mass media, what steps he is taking to ensure regional media outlets receive accreditation to cover the London 2012 Olympics. [92227]

Hugh Robertson: Further to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend on 5 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 10W, the International Olympic Committee has agreed to award a small number of additional accreditations to the British Olympic Association specifically for a local media representative for the venue in their area.

Sport: Young People

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what studies his Department has conducted on the effect of participation in sport on levels of youth crime. [92425]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England and UK Sport's Value of Sport monitor includes a review of research into the relationship between sport and crime reduction. Further information can be found at the following link:

http://www.sportengland.org/research/idoc.ashx?docid=462f0317-d81b-4ff2-936d-4fee8d17ad5d&version=-1

DCMS have not conducted or commissioned studies focusing on this specifically although the Culture and Sport Evidence Programme (CASE) has considered this indirectly by looking at learning impacts of culture and sport on young people. The Olympics meta-evaluation will assess the impact of the Olympics and associated legacy programmes on a range of social indicators in East London, including crime rates. In addition, individual legacy projects and programmes, where they have objectives to reduce youth crime, will use that as a criteria in their evaluations.

Sports: Racial Discrimination

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to tackle racism in sport; and whether he has set any targets. [92335]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England ensures that all national governing bodies that receive public funding must sign up to the Equality Standard for Sport and they have produced guidelines on how governing bodies of sport should deal with incidents of racial abuse in competitive sport settings. Sport England also continues to invest in the work that Sporting Equals does to promote ethnic diversity across all sport.

We have also welcomed the Select Committee's decision to hold an inquiry on racism in football and we will support it in any way we can. The findings from this inquiry should offer lessons that can be applied across all sport.

Trade Promotion: China

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support his Department is giving to the UK Now promotion of UK culture in China. [92605]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), together with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is working closely with the British Council and other public and private partners to ensure the success of the UK Now Festival in China. Many of the cultural organisations participating in UK Now receive public funding either directly from DCMS or through Arts Council England. I welcome the significant contribution business sponsors will make to UK Now, in cash and in kind. I am confident that UK Now will help to demonstrate the best of British culture to audiences across China, and further strengthen the export prospects for our creative industries.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92288]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport signed up to the renewed Compact, published in December 2010. To ensure that the Compact is being implemented, we have nominated a senior responsible officer, and a civil society liaison officer responsible for day to day oversight of this area of work. We also monitor consultation lengths, to ensure they are 12 weeks where possible, and Compact compliance via the number of complaints we have received on this issue. We recently participated in the National Audit Office's review of the National Compact implementation and will ensure that the findings of this review inform our departmental business plan for 2012-13.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Combined Heat and Power

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the findings of the economic modelling analysis by the Combined Heat and Power Association of the effects of policy changes on the industry. [92263]

Gregory Barker: The Government are currently assessing the Combined Heat and Power Association's analysis and are working closely with the Association and other stakeholders on this. I have recently established a Distributed Energy Contact Group to look into these issues among others.

Energy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what comparative assessment he has made of the cost *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* efficiency of different sources of power generation. [91847]

Charles Hendry: In recent years Government have commissioned several studies of the costs of different generation technologies to inform policy decisions.

The most recent information about generation costs can be found in the following two reports which are available on the DECC website:

A report by PB Power (2011) which focuses on non-renewables technologies can be found at:

www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/about-us/economics-social-research/2127-electricity-generation-cost-model-2011.pdf

A report by Arup/EY (2011) which focuses on renewable technologies can to be found at:

www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/ro-banding/3237-cons-ro-banding-arup-report.pdf

Annex A of the PB Power report and Annex D of the Arup report include tables (replicated here for selected technologies) showing the levelised costs estimates of electricity generation for projects starting in 2011 and 2017 for different generating technologies:

Table 1:10% discount rate, 2011 project start at today's EPC[2] prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK[3]

	PB Power (2011)					Arup/EY(2011)		
	CCGT NOAK	CCGT with CCS FOAK	ASC NOAK	ASC with CCS FOAK	Nuclear FOAK	Dedicated Biomass >50MW	Offshore >100MW	Onshore 5MW>
Capital costs	9.0	35.0	22.2	59.6	55.5	40.6	83.0	70.9
Fixed operating costs	2.9	5.5	5.1	9.6	11.0	15.1	37.0	16.6
Variable operating costs	0.1	0.6	1.0	2.5	0.6	4.5	1.6	2.7
Carbon costs	18.1	2.4	47.8	5.7	—	—	—	—
Fuel costs	46.5	57.5	19.3	23.1	5.0	84.3	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	2.0		—	—
CO_2 transport and storage	—	3.8	—	7.8	—	—	—	—
Total	76.6	104.8	95.4	108.3	74.1	144.6	121.6	90.2

[1] The discounted lifetime generation cost per megawatt-hour of electricity produced.

[2] Engineering, Procurement and Construction.

[3] First of a Kind and Nth of a Kind.

Table 2: 10% discount rate, 2017 start at projected EPC prices, all NOAK

	PB Power (2011)					Arup/EY (2011)		
	CCGT	CCGT with CCS	ASC	ASC with CCS	Nuclear	Dedicated Biomass >50MW	Offshore >100MW	Onshore >5MW
Capital costs	9.0	22.9	22.2	45.7	48.0	39.6	72.6	68.2
Fixed operating costs	2.9	4.7	5.1	8.2	9.4	14.7	32.0	16.6
Variable operating costs	0.1	0.5	1.0	2.1	0.5	4.4	1.2	2.7
Carbon costs	27.8	4.1	69.3	8.6	—	—	—	—
Fuel costs	48.6	59.5	19.3	23.2	5.0	84.3	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	2.0	—	—	—
CO_2 transport and storage	—	3.1	—	6.3	—	—	—	—
Total	88.4	94.8	116.9	94.1	64.9	143.0	105.7	87.5

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers and this means that there is significant uncertainty around these estimates.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of energy was imported in each of the last five years; from what sources such imports were obtained; and what estimate he has made of the likely levels of such imports in each of the next five years. [92049]

Charles Hendry: The following tables sourced from DUKES 2011, show net imports to the UK as a share of supply by fuel type for each of the last five years. Data for 2011 are not yet available.

Percentage

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Coal and Manufactured fuels	76	69	75	78	51
Oil and petroleum products	9	2	9	8	15
Natural gas	12	20	26	32	38
Renewable and waste	10	7	18	20	23
Electricity	2	1	3	1	1
Total import	21	21	26	27	28

The following four tables, show the import shares by country for the main fuels.

	Coal				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
European Union (percentage)	3	1	2	3	4
Australia (percentage)	8	10	9	8	12
Colombia (percentage)	8	9	12	14	24
Republic of South Africa (percentage)	25	18	10	8	3
Russia (percentage)	45	47	49	49	37
USA (percentage)	4	6	10	12	17
Other countries (percentage)	7	8	8	6	3
Total import (thousand tonnes)	50,528	43,364	43,875	38,167	26,521

	Crude oil				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Norway (percentage)	62	65	63	65	68
Russia (percentage)	17	14	10	8	8-
OPEC (percentage)	11	14	18	16	15
Others (percentage)	10	7	8	11	10
Total import (thousand tonnes)	51,447	49,893	51,466	47,104	47,497

	Petroleum products				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Netherlands (percentage)	16	15	19	16	28
Belgium (percentage)	6	10	7	10	9
France (percentage)	10	11	7	6	3
Sweden (percentage)	5	8	11	6	7
Kuwait (percentage)	6	10	7	6	6
Russian Federation (percentage)	4	5	6	9	8
Other (percentage)	52	41	42	46	39
Total import (thousand tonnes)	26,828	25,093	24,186	22,407	24,210

	Gas				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Belgium[1] (percentage)	13	2	3	2	2
Netherlands[2] (percentage)	4	24	23	16	15
Norway (via pipeline) (percentage)	67	70	72	58	48
LNG—Qatar (percentage)	0.3	1	—	14	28
LNG—Other (percentage)	16	4	2	11	8
Total import (gigawatt hour)	234,251	323,740	395,371	448,491	581,284

[1] Physical flows through the Bacton-Zeebrugge Interconnector.

[2] Via the Bacton-Balgzand (BBL) pipeline.

The following table shows implied net import dependence for fossil fuels based on the latest central UEP demand and production projections; for oil and gas these are as published at

http://og.decc.gov.uk/en/olgs/cms/data_maps/field_data/field_data.aspx

	Net import				
					Percentage
	2011	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*
Coal	66	68	67	69	66
Oil	24	27	29	32	35
Gas	45	44	45	45	46
Total fossil fuels	40	41	42	44	45

Energy: Prices

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 679W, on energy: prices, which energy companies he has met to discuss the cost of energy; when he met them; and what assurances he received from each company. [91836]

Charles Hendry: Ministers and officials meet regularly with the stakeholders mentioned above to discuss a range of issues. Quarterly lists of DECC Ministers' meetings that involve outside interested parties are published on the DECC website, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx

Feed-in Tariffs

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his Department's Electricity Market Reform paper, what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* demand side reduction and *(b)* energy efficiency schemes receiving support through the proposed feed-in tariff with contract for difference. [91804]

Charles Hendry: In "Planning our electric future: a white paper for secure, affordable and low-carbon electricity", available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/white_papers/emr_wp_2011/emr_wp_2011.aspx

DECC committed to assessing whether further steps are needed to improve the support and incentives for efficient use of electricity. This assessment, to be completed by summer 2012, will include consideration of the use of proposed EMR instruments such as a feed-in tariff with contract for difference to incentivise permanent reductions in demand.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92120]

Gregory Barker: DECC does not currently publish any responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

From March 2012 DECC will publish on its website responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 likely to stimulate public interest, including details of expenditure not routinely published as part of the Transparency agenda. Where possible, publication will be simultaneous with providing the response. DECC will also publish a list of all requests received with a brief description of the subject matter.

Fuels: Prices

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations his Department has received about variations in fuel prices within *(a)* Worcestershire and *(b)* the West Midlands. [92161]

Charles Hendry: The Department has received no representations about variations in fuel prices within Worcestershire or the west midlands.

Green Deal Scheme

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential reduction in carbon dioxide emissions as a result of the Green Deal. [92663]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) consultation was published on 23 November 2011. The Government's assessment of the impact of these policies was published in the accompanying draft impact assessment:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/green-deal/3603-green-deal-eco-ia.pdf

Under the central policy scenario in this assessment, the total CO_2 savings over the lifetime of the installed measures was estimated at 114$MtCO_2$ and 53 $MtCO_2$ for non-traded and traded savings respectively.

Traded carbon emissions are those covered by the EU emissions trading scheme, which covers electricity generation and some industrial processes. Energy savings in properties with electric heating therefore lead to a saving in traded CO_2 emissions, while energy savings in properties with non-electric heating systems lead to savings in non-traded CO_2 emissions.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with insulation *(a)* providers and *(b)* installers in the last six months on the implementation of the Green Deal. [92664]

Gregory Barker: Over the last six months, the Department has engaged extensively with a large number of companies and organisations across the supply chain, including insulation suppliers and installers represented on the Green Deal stakeholder forums.

In addition, organisations with an interest in the Green Deal have had the opportunity to respond the formal consultation, launched in November 2011.

We will continue the process of engagement in the run up to the launch of the Green Deal.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the case for the introduction of a transition period to allow more cavities and lofts to be insulated following the introduction of the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation. [92665]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal consultation document considered the delivery of loft and cavity insulation under our proposals for Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation, and was accompanied by a detailed impact assessment. We have received over 600 responses to the consultation, including a number which discuss transition arrangements. The Department is now analysing the responses.

We will set out our final position and supporting analysis in the Government response to the consultation and the final impact assessment.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation. [92667]

Gregory Barker: I meet ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) regularly to discuss areas of mutual interest and my officials are in regular contact with policy and analytical colleagues.

In addition, BIS is represented on the Green Deal Capacity and Innovation Forum, chaired by the Chief Construction Adviser.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people were questioned on potential take-up of the Green Deal in order to produce scenarios set out in the impact assessment for the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation. [92668]

Gregory Barker: A survey of a representative sample of 2,023 owner occupiers and private tenants across Great Britain was conducted to understand the potential response to the Green Deal.

Findings from a sub-sample of 1,395 people were the basis for the scenarios set out in the impact assessment for the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation. The sample was smaller because it excluded people who did not have any potential to install loft, solid or cavity wall insulation, underfloor heating or a condensing boiler in their properties.

Infrastructure

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reason demand-side management support from the proposed capacity mechanism was not included in the National Infrastructure Plan. [91850]

Charles Hendry: The "National Infrastructure Plan 2011", available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_infrastructure_plan2011.htm

was published by HM Treasury in November 2011 and sets out a plan for the UK's infrastructure. Electricity Market Reform, which includes proposals for the establishment of a capacity mechanism, was cited as one of the major dependencies for the UK's energy systems.

Since publication of the National Infrastructure Plan, DECC has published a Technical Update, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/white_papers/emr_wp_2011/tech_update/tech_update.aspx

to the Electricity Market Reform White Paper. The Technical Update stated that the capacity mechanism will be market-wide, and based on ensuring a required volume of capacity—a Capacity Market. It also reiterated that Government are keen that verifiable demand-side response can play a fair and equivalent role to generation in the Capacity Market, and will determine how to achieve this in the detailed design phase.

Members: Correspondence

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Poplar and Limehouse of 28 November 2011 on the Renewables Obligation Review. [92613]

Charles Hendry: I replied to the hon. Member on 30 January 2012.

Smart Meters

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what measures are in place to monitor whether costs associated with the national smart meter roll-out are passed on to consumers. [92395]

Charles Hendry: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 26 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 316W, to the hon. Member for Stockton North (Alex Cunningham).

Petroplus: Insolvency

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of Petroplus going into administration on *(a)* refining capacity and *(b)* petrol supply in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [92518]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of Petroplus going into administration on *(a)* competitiveness and *(b)* research and development capability in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [92517]

Charles Hendry: On appointment, the Administrator PWC made it clear that its immediate priority is to continue to operate the Coryton refinery and Teesside storage business while the financial position is clarified and restructuring options explored.

Ministers and officials are fully engaged with the Administrator and other interested parties. We are keen to secure a sustainable future for refinery operations at Coryton and other Petroplus sites in the UK. We continue to have close contact with the refinery, its major customers, trade unions and local MPs. We are talking to the Administrator to understand how best Government can support the identification of buyers for the sites.

Supply companies have alternative arrangements to ensure adequate supplies of oil products are available. The Administrator announced on 26 January that it had entered into agreements which will result in the commencement of shipments of refined oil products from the Coryton site with immediate effect.

Renewable Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to meet its targets for renewable energy generation. [92658]

Gregory Barker: The Renewable Energy Roadmap (published in July 2011) sets out a targeted plan of actions for eight key technologies, in order to meet our 15% renewable energy target. The Roadmap includes illustrative "central ranges" for these key technologies and while they do not represent technology specific targets or the level of our ambition, they do show what could be deployed by 2020.

We are making progress on the actions in the Roadmap to remove non-financial barriers—including reform of the planning system, taking steps to reduce grid barriers, and working with aviation and wind stakeholders to develop and implement mitigation of wind farm interference with aviation radar.

Solar Power: Council Housing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure individual council tenants are able to benefit from the use of solar panels on their property. [92182]

Gregory Barker: How the benefits of FITs is shared by landlords and tenants in any circumstances is a matter for agreement between them. We would expect that social landlords would allow tenants at least the benefit of the electricity generated and used on site.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92286]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) signed up to the renewed Compact published in December 2010.

DECC has strong working relationships with many civil society organisations. These relationships respect the Compact principle of a strong, diverse and independent civil society. For example, the Department recently launched a new £10 million Local Energy Assessment Fund launched specifically to help local communities develop energy projects.

DECC has made it mandatory to advertise all procurement requirements above £10,000 on Contracts Finder ensuring that opportunities are available in the public domain for SME's and civil society groups.

DECC has a nominated Civil Society champion, and a civil society liaison officer and participated in the NAO's review of the National Compact implementation.

Wind Power

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what comparative assessment his Department has made of the permitted distance between dwellings and onshore wind turbines in the UK and other EU member states. [92407]

Charles Hendry: The approach taken to wind turbine development in the UK is to assess the potential impacts of proposals on a case by case basis. Such assessments will include, for example, possible impacts of noise and shadow flicker on dwellings in the vicinity of the proposed development, and will be informed by Government guidance.

An independent study commissioned by DECC and published in March 2011 showed that the Government's current guidance on the 'distance' parameter used for the assessment of 'shadow flicker' is broadly consistent with that of different European countries.

In addition, DECC published an independent report in July 2011 which found that current Government guidance are appropriate for assessing the noise impacts from wind farms, and recommended that good practice advice should be produced to confirm, and where necessary, clarify the way the guidance should be implemented in practice. The Institute of Acoustics is taking forward work to develop such advice.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidance his Department gives on payments to wind turbine owners when they are ordered to shut down by the National Grid during periods of high winds. [92618]

Charles Hendry: Reducing or increasing output is a normal part of National Grid's role in balancing electricity supply and demand, and wind is treated like any other generator in this respect. Less than 10% of all payments made to generators to alter their output to resolve network constraints ('constraint payments') in 2011 were made to wind farms. The Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC) defines the rules for electricity balancing and settlement in GB. It is governed by the BSC Panel, which comprises a Chairman appointed by Ofgem as well as industry, independent and consumer members. Ofgem will take the final decision on any BSC modification proposals, having received a recommendation from the BSC Panel.

The Government recognise that no generator of any type should receive an excessive benefit from network constraints, so we are currently consulting on the introduction of a Transmission Constraint Licence Condition later this year which will help to tackle this. In parallel, Ofgem is consulting on guidance as to how it will interpret and enforce the licence condition. Planned upgrades to the transmission network will take effect from 2013 onwards, and will also ease constraints.

Wind Power: Birds

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with countryside bodies on wind turbines and their potential effect on the migration of birds. [92305]

Charles Hendry: All DECC Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis on the DECC website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx

My officials meet regularly with countryside bodies and other organisations, such as the statutory nature conservation agencies, to discuss the impacts of wind turbines on the environment, including potential effects on migratory birds.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Reed Beds

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much reed is imported for thatching and panel fencing. [91275]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Treasury.

HM Revenue and Customs is responsible for the collection of data on imports of goods into the United Kingdom. It is not possible to identify the quantity of reed imported into the UK from the data held.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Algeria: Christianity

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to address discrimination against Christians in Algeria. [92352]

Alistair Burt: I met Algerian Church leaders on 26 October in London to discuss their concerns and assessment of the current situation. The British embassy in Algiers monitors the situation closely and maintains contact with Christian leaders. The EU raises the subject of freedom of religion in their political dialogue with Algeria.

The law in Algeria allows Christians living in Algeria to practise their religion, including the freedom to worship in churches and to form associations, provided that places of worship and preachers are registered with the authorities. The laws on religious property apply to all religious groups. Since the laws came into effect they have led to the closure of some unauthorised places of worship, including those of Christian groups and a large number of mosques which had not achieved the correct approvals. We continue to monitor the enforcement of the religious laws, including variations between regions.

Arrest Warrants

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has made inquiries with another sovereign nation's government on whether that government would comply with an International Criminal Court arrest warrant in the last 10 years. [92426]

Mr Lidington: The British Government, together with European Union partners, regularly raises the importance of states providing full co-operation with investigations being carried out by the International Criminal Court (ICC), including the issue of the enforcement of the Court's arrest warrants. Our view is that all countries should co-operate with the ICC in its investigations in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions, and the particular legal obligations of States Party to the Rome Statute. Most recently, we raised with the Government of Libya, our concerns about a visit on 7 January to Libya by Sudanese President al-Bashir who is subject to an ICC arrest warrant. Another recent example is the statement made in October by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), expressing similar concerns following a visit by President Bashir to Malawi.

Belarus: Political Prisoners

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the health of Andrei Sannikov; and what representations he has made to the government of Belarus on this issue. [91569]

Mr Lidington: I receive regular reports from our embassy in Minsk and from the sister of Mr Sannikov, whom I have met on several occasions—most recently on 19 December. I am deeply concerned by the news of Mr Sannikov's ill health and reports that he has been isolated from external contact for long periods and only recently granted access to his lawyer again.

On 28 September, I made a statement about our concerns and called on Belarus to reassure us that Mr Sannikov and fellow political prisoner, Zmitser Dashkevich, were receiving adequate medical treatment, and being treated in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1988. We have made a number of direct representations to the Belarusian authorities both in Minsk and London about the circumstances in which political prisoners are being held in Belarus.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has held with the Government of the DemocraticRepublic of Congo on the conduct of the recent presidential election in that country; and if he will make a statement. [92092]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not had any direct discussions with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Minister for Africa, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), has called publicly for the DRC Government to address concerns over irregularities reported during the elections and the conduct of the security forces during the elections.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the repression of opposition parties; and what monitoring of the political situation in that country since the elections in November 2011 has been undertaken by his Department. [91653]

Mr Lidington: Throughout the elections, the United Kingdom, through our embassy in Kinshasa, lobbied the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) authorities to ensure that all candidates could campaign freely, and would receive fair access to the media. Following the elections, our ambassador in Kinshasa has met senior figures in the DRC security forces and pressed them to conduct themselves professionally and proportionately when dealing with Opposition demonstrators. He also met Government and Opposition figures to encourage dialogue and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

We are monitoring closely political developments in the DRC through our embassy in Kinshasa.

Diplomatic Relations

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on improving co-ordination between defence diplomacy and the Government's wider diplomatic efforts to ensure national objectives are delivered. [92256]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for Defence meet regularly in the National Security Council and other fora to discuss how to use all the levers of government to achieve our objectives. Last March, both Secretaries of State agreed to produce jointly a Defence Engagement Strategy to ensure we exploit fully the opportunities that our defence assets and activities provide for the adjustment of our wider international objectives. This strategy is being reviewed by Ministers and an announcement will be made in the House in the coming weeks.

EU Presidency

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the Government of Denmark to discuss the energy and climate change priorities of the Danish presidency of the EU. [91670]

Mr Lidington: The UK Government have close and extensive contact with the Danish Government at all levels on energy and climate change issues, including in the context of Denmark's EU presidency. FCO officials visited Copenhagen in July and September 2011. Early thinking on energy and climate change issues for their EU presidency was part of those discussions. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs discussed energy and climate change issues with the Danish Foreign Minister in London in November, as did I when I met the Danish Minister for Europe, Nicolai Wammen, in October 2011. Our embassy in Copenhagen maintains a close and regular dialogue both with the Danish Government and with Danish businesses on these issues. There is also extensive contact between the Department for Energy and Climate Change and the Danish Ministry for Climate and Energy.

European Court of Human Rights

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 23 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 62W, on the European Court of Human Rights, if he will establish a protocol in respect of observations of cases affecting UK citizens to ensure that Ministers are consulted on the substance of observations before they are presented to the Court; and if he will make a statement. [92424]

Mr Lidington: Decisions on consulting Ministers are for the lead Government Department to take in each case. The need to do so will be assessed by the relevant Department in the light of all the circumstances of the case.

Gibraltar: Sovereignty

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Spanish counterpart on Gibraltar. [92014]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has had no discussions with his newly elected Spanish counterpart on Gibraltar.

The UK will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their wishes. Furthermore, the UK will not enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar is not content.

Nigeria: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to his Department's recent travel advice on the city of Kano in Nigeria, what guidance he can give to UK citizens currently in the region. [92626]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises all UK citizens in Nigeria regularly to check our travel advice website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/nigeria

Our travel advice is frequently updated in the light of our assessment of potential threats and dangers to British citizens. Following the series of attacks in Kano city on 20 January, our Nigeria travel advice currently states that:

> "we advise against all but essential travel to Kano city. Those in Kano city should remain vigilant and exercise caution."

We also advise British nationals to register with our LOCATE service when travelling abroad at:

https://www.locate.fco.gov.uk/locateportal/

Nigeria: Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Government of Nigeria on fossil fuel subsidy reform. [91763]

Mr Lidington: The removal of the fuel subsidy in Nigeria is an internal matter and the effects of removing or reducing it are for the Nigerian Government to manage. However, the British Government have encouraged the Nigerian Government to pursue sound and effective economic reform plans accompanied by fiscal transparency. Removing the fuel subsidy is a valid economic objective which would allow the Nigerian Government to spend more on infrastructure and development projects to the benefit of the Nigerian public. Overall, Britain has strongly supported the G20 initiative to rationalise and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

Somalia: Press Freedom

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the death of Abdisalan Sheik Hassan in Somalia. [91783]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is deeply concerned about the death of Abdisalan Sheik Hassan, a journalist in Somalia. We unreservedly condemn the murder, intimidation or mistreatment of any journalist. The circumstances surrounding the murder of Abdisalan Sheik Hassan in Somalia were particularly disturbing and we have received a number of uncorroborated reports on his death.

The British Government continue to press for adherence to basic principles of human rights in Somalia, including respect for freedom of the press.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential risks to journalists working in Somalia. [91825]

Mr Lidington: We are deeply concerned about the risks faced by journalists working in Somalia. We continue to consider Somalia one of the most dangerous countries for journalists to operate in. The British Government have expressed grave concern about the human rights situation in Somalia and are working with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and regional administrations to improve freedom of reporting in Somalia. We also continue to engage with Somali journalists to better understand the difficulties they face and how we might support them in their important work.

Turkey: Foreign Relations

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the aims and objectives are of the Government's policy on Turkey. [92247]

Mr Lidington: The Government's Strategic Partnership with Turkey directly contributes to the UK's and Turkey's security and prosperity. We are making good progress towards the Prime Minister's goal of doubling trade within five years of his visit to Turkey in 2010—trade figures for 2011 show an increase of 40% since 2009. We will continue to develop our already close collaboration on security issues in those regions where the UK and Turkey share significant interests, including the middle east, north Africa and Afghanistan-Pakistan. The UK and Turkey will also implement new defence agreements on training and defence acquisition, signed during the State visit, and develop our active programme of co-operation to counter irregular migration and organised crime.

Turkey: Minority Groups

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has made representations to the Government of Turkey on the treatment of Kurdish minorities in that country since 28 December 2011. [91301]

Mr Lidington: Her Majesty's Government have not made any specific representations to the Government of Turkey on the treatment of Kurds since 28 December 2011. We regret the tragic deaths of 35 civilians in an airstrike in Uludere on 28 December. We welcome the Turkish Government's decision to launch an immediate official inquiry to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident.

While we support Turkey's efforts to tackle terrorism, we have called on them to take all possible measures to avoid the potential for harm to civilians. Together with our EU partners, we encourage Turkey to make progress on respect for, and tolerance of, minority groups, including the Kurds. Current plans for a new constitution are an important opportunity to address these issues.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Civil Disorder

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to meet the costs of claims to police authorities of claims by businesses and individuals under the provisions of the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 arising from the public disorder of 2011. [88712]

Nick Herbert: The Prime Minister's comments following the August disorder indicated that the Government were ready to support the police with the costs of the riots. We have now confirmed that police authorities will receive 100% of the payments made under the Riot (Damages) Act and 85% of operational policing costs. We will consider later in year, once final costs are known, if additional payments can be made in respect of operational costs incurred. We are working with affected police authorities to ensure they receive prompt payment.

Crime: Arrests

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were arrested for possession of a knife in each police force area of England and Wales in each quarter since January 2010; [91165]

(2) how many people were arrested on suspicion of robbery in each police force area of England Wales in each quarter since January 2010; [91053]

(3) how many people were arrested for burglary in each police force area of England and Wales in each quarter since January 2010. [91051]

Mrs May *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* Available data relate to the number of persons arrested for burglary and robbery in each police force area of England and Wales between 1 January and 31 March 2010, and are provided in the following table.

Arrests data are provided to the Home Office at offence group level, for example, violence against the person and drug offences. As such, it is not possible to identify separately arrests for the possession of knives.

Arrests data are published annually on a financial year basis, and the latest arrests chapter can be found in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales, 2009/10'. This is available online:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb0711/

and in the Library of the House. Data for 2010-11 are scheduled to be published in April 2012.

Persons arrested for burglary and robbery between 1 January and 31 March 2010 by police force area, England and Wales

		Number
Police force area	*Robbery*	*Burglary*
Cleveland	97	613
Durham	32	375
Northumbria	129	828
North East region	258	1,816

Persons arrested for burglary and robbery between 1 January and 31 March 2010 by police force area, England and Wales

Number

Police force area	*Robbery*	*Burglary*
Cheshire	87	351
Cumbria	18	166
Greater Manchester	640	1,423
Lancashire	92	716
Merseyside	224	723
North West region	1,061	3,379
Humberside	92	448
North Yorkshire	106	415
South Yorkshire	158	600
West Yorkshire	523	1,681
Yorkshire and the Humber region	879	3,144
Derbyshire	146	398
Leicestershire	119	464
Lincolnshire	24	157
Northamptonshire	127	313
Nottinghamshire	230	656
East Midlands region	646	1,988
Staffordshire	124	416
Warwickshire	43	141
West Mercia	87	331
West Midlands	276	531
West Midlands region	530	1,419
Bedfordshire	103	168
Cambridgeshire	52	256
Essex	158	565
Hertfordshire	112	271
Norfolk	53	198
Suffolk	44	246
East of England region	522	1,704
London, City of	7	23
Metropolitan police	2,907	2,874
London region	2,914	2,897
Hampshire	189	679
Kent	142	683
Surrey	88	214
Sussex	129	385
Thames Valley	294	816
South East region	842	2,777
Avon and Somerset	170	613
Devon and Cornwall	57	399
Dorset	32	252
Gloucestershire	38	167
Wiltshire	80	175
South West region	377	1,606
England total	8,029	20,730
Dyfed-Powys	9	184
Gwent	32	272
North Wales	43	281
South Wales	129	597
Wales total	213	1,334
England and Wales	8,242	22,064

Entry Clearances

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the application for leave to remain Ref. K418847 of a constituent of the hon. Member for Vauxhall to be resolved. [91842]

Damian Green: The case of K418847 was resolved on 24 January 2012. The decision was dispatched to the hon. Member's constituent on the same day.

Extradition

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration her Department has given to the use of *(a)* Interpol red notices and *(b)* other Interpol notices as a means of detaining people with a view to extraditing them from the UK. [91695]

Damian Green: An Interpol Red Notice is not formally recognised within the UK and carries no power of arrest. Where a Red Notice was from a state that was designated for the purposes of extradition under Part 1 or 2 of the Extradition Act 2003, it would be open to the police to treat it, where appropriate, as a request for detention with a view to extradition from the UK. Any state that was not so designated would have to pursue a request for detention with a view to extradition through diplomatic channels. There are no other Interpol notices that enable detention with a view to extradition.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92117]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office publishes, in a specific part of its website, information released in response to freedom of information requests where the information is likely to be of wider interest to members of the public. We do not publish responses in the many cases where the released information is of relevance only to the requester, or where the information requested is either not held or is withheld under one or more of the exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act.

Responses to requests handled by the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau are published separately on the two agencies' own sites.

The average time between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website is not held and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many spouses of the *(a)* sons and *(b)* daughters of applicants were allowed entry into the UK in the most recent year for which information is available; [92264]

(2) how many people entered the UK because they were the unmarried partner of an applicant in the most recent year for which information is available; [92265]

(3) how many *(a)* fathers, *(b)* mothers, *(c)* brothers and *(d)* sisters of an applicant's spouse were allowed entry into the UK in the most recent year for which information is available; [92266]

(4) how many *(a)* spouses, *(b)* fathers, *(c)* mothers, *(d)* sons, *(e)* daughters, *(f)* grandfathers, *(g)* grandmothers, *(h)* grandsons, *(i)* granddaughters, *(j)* brothers, *(k)* sisters, *(l)* uncles, *(m)* aunts, *(n)* nephews, *(o)* nieces and *(p)* first cousins of applicants for entry into the UK were allowed entry in the most recent year for which information is available; [92267]

(5) how many *(a)* stepfathers *(b)* stepmothers; *(c)* stepsons, *(d)* stepdaughters, *(e)* stepbrothers and *(f)* stepsisters of applicants were allowed entry into the UK in the most recent year for which information is available. [92268]

Damian Green: The data shown are available on the Home Office website. A breakdown of the specific family categories asked for is not available beyond that in the following. The data provided are for entry clearance visas issued in the Family Route category (to settlement) in each of the four quarters from October 2010 to September 2011.

The data does not include figures for those dependants issued with visas through other available entry clearance routes to the UK.

The figures represent those granted entry clearance, not the number entering the UK.

Figures for the last four quarters are as follows:

	Q4 2010	*Q1 2011*	*Q2 2011*	*Q3 2011*
Partner	10,831	8,562	7,036	9,856
Partner for settlement (ILE[1])	354	309	380	397
Child	25	21	33	26
Child for settlement (ILE[1])	1,318	1,340	1,081	1,214
Other	1,354	1,324	925	1,134
Other for settlement (ILE[1])	563	474	526	520

[1] ILE: Indefinite Leave to Enter.

Note:

Other is defined as not children or the partners of the main applicant, but dependants of the main applicant.

Source:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-tabs-q3-2011/?view=Standard&publD=962325

Immigration Controls: Croatia

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to introduce transitional immigration controls for Croatian nationals in the event of Croatia joining the EU. [92099]

Damian Green: It is the Government's policy that they will apply transitional controls as a matter of course for all new member states.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police officers have been reprimanded as a result of Independent Police Complaints Commission investigations prompted by complaints in respect of sudden deaths in the last five years; [90259]

(2) what information her Department holds on the average cost of Independent Police Complaints Commission investigations into deaths; [90260]

(3) how much the Independent Police Complaints Commission has spent on investigating complaints into the actions of police forces with regard to sudden deaths in the last five years. [90261]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information. These matters are for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). The IPCC has written to the hon. Member about the information sought. A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission research into the level of public confidence in the Independent Police Complaints Commission. [91655]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* The Government have no plans to commission research into the level of public confidence in the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). The results of surveys which measure levels of confidence in the police complaints system are available on the IPCC's website:

www.ipcc.gov.uk

Police Arbitration Tribunal

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to refer the Police Arbitration Tribunal decision to Parliament for debate. [86638]

Nick Herbert: I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), on 30 January 2012.

Police: Accountability

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 86W, on police: accountability, what the main categories of costs are within the £25 million of additional costs for police commissioners' elections. [75274]

Nick Herbert: The original cost estimate of £50 million for the police and crime commissioners (PCC) elections was the extra cost of these polls in addition to the local elections being held in May 2012.

Now that the PCC elections are being held in November there will no longer be savings from combining the polls. We estimate this change will mean that the elections will cost an additional £25 million. This includes the costs of staffing (approximately £16 million), accommodating polling stations (approximately £8 million), and the use of equipment for processing poll cards and postal ballots (around £30,000).

Police: Production Orders

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many production orders have been issued by each police force in each of the last five years; what the details were of each such order; and whether each such order was granted by the courts. [91802]

Nick Herbert: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Police: Dismissal

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure the dismissal of police officers who are convicted of criminal offences. [90984]

Nick Herbert: The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008 set out disciplinary procedures for police officers. The decision as to whether to dismiss when an officer has been convicted of a criminal offence is a matter for the relevant chief officer or police authority/Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were convicted of criminal offences in each of the last five years; and what proportion were dismissed for those convictions in each such year. [90985]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not collect this information centrally.

Police: Lasers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to *(a)* allow the use by the police of and *(b)* regulate the police's use of lasers intended to blind people temporarily. [91362]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 23 January 2012]:* The Home Office has no plans to trial lasers for use by the police service.

Police: Pay

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average overtime payments were for police officers in each police force in England and Wales in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) the latest period for which figures are available. [90881]

Nick Herbert: Information about police service expenditure, including overtime, is available on the website of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants:

www.cipfastats.net

Information on police officer strength is published in the Police Service Strength Statistical Bulletin:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Police: Powers

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what independent checks are required to monitor the use of force against members of the public who are the subject of a police investigation. [92196]

Nick Herbert: Police Conduct Regulations (2008) govern the use of force by police officers. All officers are trained to exercise force responsibly in carrying out their duties. Police forces in England and Wales have a statutory duty to refer to the Independent Police Complaints Commission any serious incident that has arisen from police contact.

Police: Standards

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to simplify the process for removing poorly performing police officers. [90982]

Nick Herbert: Tom Winsor made recommendations in respect of police officer performance in Part One of his Independent Review of Police Officer and Staff Remuneration and Conditions. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), is currently considering the recommendation of the Police Advisory Board of England and Wales in relation to this.

Police: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unmanned aerial vehicles were in use by police forces in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010, *(d)* 2011 and *(e)* 2012. [91365]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 23 January 2012]:* The information held centrally via the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Unmanned Aerial System Steering Group (UASSG) states that the number of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) owned and in use by police forces are as follows:

(a) 2008—two UAVs (one operational)

(b) 2009—three UAVs (two operational)

(c) 2010—three UAVs (two operational)

(d) 2011—three UAVs (two operational)

(e) 2012 (to date)—two UAVs (one operational)

As forces are not required to inform ACPO UASSG when they purchase or operate a UAV, additional units may be in service, but data for these will not be held centrally.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92112]

Mr Paterson: My Department does not currently publish on its website responses to requests received under the Freedom of Information Act. The Northern Ireland Office is, however, committed to openness and transparency and preparations are being made to publish such information on the website at the earliest opportunity.

Welfare State: Reform

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill on people living in Northern Ireland. [92415]

Mr Paterson: The Government's reforms to the welfare system will tackle the twin problems of poverty and welfare dependency. They will also end the something for nothing culture encouraged by the policies of the previous administration.

The Government's reforms will ensure that work pays and will always be seen to pay. Under our plans, for every hour a person works they will be better off. Universal credit will lift 900,000 individuals including more than 350,000 children and 550,000 working-age adults across the UK, including Northern Ireland, out of poverty. Our reforms will help significant numbers of people in Northern Ireland who are either unemployed or working on low pay.

The Personal Independence Payment will ensure that support is targeted to help those who face the greatest barriers to leading full, active and independent lives.

It is not fair that households on out-of-work benefits should receive a greater income from benefits than the average earnings of working households. To deal with this unfairness our reforms will also cap the amount of benefits in line with average weekly earnings.

We will also simplify the welfare system which under the previous administration had become hugely complex and bureaucratic, our reforms will tackle the unsustainable rise in spending on benefits and tax credits as part of the Government's continuing efforts to reduce the record deficit that we inherited from the administration in which the hon. Gentleman was a member.

SCOTLAND

Credit

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Skills and Innovation on the operation and regulation of payday loan shops in Scotland. [92619]

David Mundell: The Government acknowledge that there are real concerns about this type of lending. The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), raised the issue of access to credit and the potential for credit unions to provide an alternative source of finance during a recent meeting with the Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs, the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey), this month.

Payday lending is a key area of regulatory focus for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and it monitors the market for evidence of consumer detriment. The OFT has taken enforcement action against a number of companies in the payday loan market but as the market has increased in size it has seen an increase in reported consumer harm. In light of these concerns, the Government welcome the recent announcement by the OFT that they will be launching a comprehensive compliance review of its Irresponsible Lending Guidance that will specifically target the payday lending market. The review will focus on identifying those practices that are the cause of most harm to consumers and the findings will be used to take further enforcement action and drive up standards in this market. The OFT will also increase its scrutiny of applications for consumer credit licenses by those wishing to engage in this form of lending.

Sovereignty

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the number of registered voters who would be eligible to participate in a referendum on the constitutional future of Scotland under the *(a)* Westminster and *(b)* local authority franchise on the latest date for which figures are available. [92101]

David Mundell: As at 1 December 2010, in Scotland there were 3.93 million registered voters for UK Parliament elections, and 3.99 million registered voters for local government elections.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92279]

David Mundell: The Compact referred to applies to England only. The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I are in contact with voluntary and civil society organisations in Scotland on a range of issues.

TRANSPORT

High Speed 2

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many properties not on the planned route of High Speed 2 have qualified for payments under the HS2 exceptional hardship scheme to date. [91827]

Justine Greening: At this time it is not possible to tell which properties purchased under the exceptional hardship scheme (EHS) would have been compulsorily purchased as safeguarding directions are yet to be issued.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in her Department are working on the High Speed 2 project. [91919]

Justine Greening: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Warwick and Leamington (Chris White) on 19 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 916W.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate she has made of the total cost to her Department of work to prepare, draft and support the passage of the proposed legislation for High Speed 2. [91920]

Justine Greening: The total funding allocated as part of the spending review to HS2 was £773 million. It includes preparation for and passage of the Hybrid Bill as well as preparatory work for phase 2 of the network.

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on planning and developing the High Speed Two project in each of the last three years. [87874]

Justine Greening: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Actual spend on HS2 (unless otherwise stated, see footnote[1])

£ million

Financial year	*Resource Administration and Programme*	*Capital*	*Total*
2009-10	9.4	—	9.4
2010-11	14.6	9.6	24.2
2011-12	[1]116.1	[1]50	166.1

[1] This reflects the budget allocation and is subject to review in light of actual spend to date.

Large Goods Vehicles

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 24-25WS, on high-volume semi-trailers, on what type of roads the longer lorry trials will take place. [92952]

Mike Penning: The high-volume semi-trailers will not be restricted to any type or types of roads.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 24-25WS, on high-volume semi-trailers, how many lorries will be involved in the longer lorry trials. [92953]

Mike Penning: This information—1,800 lorries—is contained in the written ministerial statement.

Motorways: Closures

Dr McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many motorway lanes were closed by the Highways Agency in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [92139]

(2) what proportion of lane closures on the motorway network were between the hours of 8.00 pm and 6.00 am in each of the last three years. [92140]

Mike Penning: The information requested is not currently available, but will be placed in the Libraries of the House by Friday 3 February.

Dr McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* slight injuries occurred on the motorway network in accidents or incidents at points of lane closures in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [92141]

Mike Penning: Neither the Highways Agency nor the central Department holds information on the number of deaths, serious or slight injuries which occurred at the point of lane closure on motorways.

Dr McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Highways Agency's policy is on the use of traffic management methods using *(a)* one and *(b)* two vehicles (i) with and (ii) without the use of impact protection; and what proportion of road closures have been implemented using each method in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [92142]

Mike Penning: Highways Agency service providers undertake urgent repairs and routine maintenance to the strategic road network, plus renewal and improvement work, as part of their maintenance contracts. They determine the method of traffic management required in each case based on a wide range of factors e.g. nature of the issue requiring a road closure, type of road, speed limit and traffic flows. The full criteria for traffic management carried out by its service providers, including the use of vehicles with and without impact protection are set out in three documents: the Agency's Network Management Manual; Routine and Winter Service Code; and Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual, which is the Department for Transport's standard for signing and management of traffic at static and mobile road works.

For incident management and other exceptional circumstances, in accordance with the Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service Procedures Manual, Traffic Officers use the Rolling Road Block procedure and technique to control traffic flow and speed as an emergency traffic management method. The procedure requires traffic officers to perform a dynamic risk assessment considering factors such as traffic flows, weather conditions, general visibility and the number of running lanes to determine whether the technique should be executed with the use of one or two vehicles. At the scene, traffic officers use traffic management equipment such as cones and signs if required.

Information on the proportion of road closures implemented, broken down by the number of vehicles used and whether or not they had impact protection is not readily available and could be obtained only through scrutiny of service provider individual traffic management provision records, at disproportionate cost to the Agency.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Autumn Statement, how much of the cost of completing the *(a)* M25 junctions 23 to 27 and *(b)* M1 junctions 39 to 42 improvements will fall beyond the comprehensive spending review period. [92238]

Mike Penning: Following the spending review announcement on 26 October 2010, the Government announced plans to invest £2.3 billion on major roads improvements through to the end of 2014-15. This included £1.4 billion to start 14 new schemes, including *(a)* M25 J23-27 and *(b)* M1 39-42 in the next four years. The Highways Agency has committed to reduce the total cost of the 14 capital major schemes by 20% against agreed baseline estimates. The autumn statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, announced funding of £100 million to accelerate the current major projects planned in the comprehensive spending review period, on the M25 (junctions 23-27) and the M1 (junctions 39-42).

For these accelerated schemes around 17% of the projects1 expenditure would fall into the next spending review period, dependent upon the total level of efficiencies realised for the Highways Agency's SR10 Major Roads Programme, when all 14 projects have completed.

The Highways Agency is working up detailed delivery time scales for the two accelerated schemes, to bring forward construction up to a year earlier than planned. We wilt make announcements on such time scales in due course.

Queen Elizabeth II Bridge: Closure

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the closure of the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge on traffic levels in Thurrock on 5 January 2012; and if she will make a statement. [91786]

Mike Penning: On 4 January the QEII Bridge was closed from 21.43 and reopened at 17.09 on 5 January.

There are no cameras or other equipment along the A13 or A1089 to monitor traffic levels in real time. However, the Highways Agency was aware of morning peak hour queuing on the A13 westbound in the Thurrock area due to reduced capacity at the Dartford-Thurrock crossing as a result of the bridge closure.

Within Thurrock the Highways Agency are responsible for the M25, A282, A13 and A1089 trunk roads on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport as highway authority. Monitoring of traffic levels on other roads within Thurrock is undertaken by the local highway authority, Thurrock council.

During each of the bridge closures traffic levels were monitored on the M25/A282 where CCTV cameras are available.

Railways: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the total cost to the public purse of the east-west rail project falls beyond the comprehensive spending review period. [91585]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* As part of the Growth review, the Department for Transport committed to fund the east-west rail link, subject to finalising a detailed business case and a satisfactory local contribution being made.

Provided that these two conditions are satisfied, the Department will fund the scheme for delivery in Control Period 5 (CP5). The first year of CP5 is the final year of the current spending review period (i.e. 2014-15).

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the total cost to the public purse of electrification of the trans-Pennine Express falls beyond the comprehensive spending review period. [91588]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* Following the Department for Transport's commitment to fund the electrification of the north trans-Pennine Express line as part of the Growth review, Network Rail have begun working up detailed plans for the delivery of this scheme. This includes considering the delivery programme for this work.

Early works will be delivered in Control Period 4 (i.e. by the end of 2013-14) in order to stimulate economic growth. However, it is anticipated that work will continue into Control Period 5 (CP5). The profile and cost of this work will be agreed as part of the CP5 settlement.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the total cost to the public purse of measures to reduce disruption on the rail network falls beyond the comprehensive spending review period. [91589]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* As part of the Growth review, the Department for Transport asked Network Rail to undertake a further £100 million investment via the Network Rail Discretionary Fund (NRDF) to reduce disruption on the rail network and reduce the cost of running the railway. We anticipate that this expenditure will be completed by the end of Control Period 4 (i.e. by the end of 2013-14).

This investment will be financed via Network Rail's regulated asset base. As with other regulated utilities, additions to the RAB are financed via a return paid to Network Rail and an amortisation (i.e. depreciation) charge. These payments are made over the life of the asset (generally around 30 years).

Railways: Franchises

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the coalition agreement, what progress she has made in granting longer rail franchises. [87377]

Mrs Villiers: The Intercity West Coast franchise that is currently in the procurement stage will have a core term of 13 years and four months. The previous Government's policy was that franchises should have a core term of up to seven years, with a potential three-year extension, but in practice many were shorter. OJEU notices were published on 19 December 2011 in relation to new 15 year franchises for Essex Thameside and Great Western.

Roads: Safety

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 484W, on roads: safety, what assessment she has made of the level of compliance with the Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways; and how many fines have been issued in respect of a failure to comply with *(a)* the current edition of the Specification and *(b)* previous editions of the Specification since the commencement of section 71 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. [91787]

Norman Baker: Inspection of works to monitor compliance with the Specification is a matter for individual highway authorities, and accordingly the Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has made no central assessment of the level of compliance. Where authorities identify instances of non-compliance with the Specification, they normally exercise their powers under section 72 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 to require the responsible person to carry out the necessary remedial works (at their own expense), rather than seeking to pursue the matter through the courts. It is in the interests of the local authorities themselves to identify below standard replacements works.

Persons proceeded against for offences under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 cannot be separately identified on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database, as they form part of a miscellaneous group.

Southern: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the cost of new carriages for the Southern rail network will fall beyond the comprehensive spending review period. [90629]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* Southern Railway will be conducting a financing competition for the new trains which is expected to complete in financial year 2012-13. Until this competition is concluded the details of any further payments have not been agreed.

I am happy to provide this information once the competition has been concluded.

Railway Announcements

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if her Department will seek suggestions from members of the public on the wording of passenger announcements on trains and in stations. [91248]

Mrs Villiers: The wording of passenger announcements is a matter for train and station operators. A small number of information items are required by accessibility standards, in order to give persons with reduced mobility confidence when travelling. The Department consulted with representatives of passengers and disabled people when deciding which items should be mandated. Other announcements may be appropriate for safety reasons.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has a role in the formulation of guidance for passenger announcements on trains and in stations. [91250]

Mrs Villiers: Passenger announcements are a matter for train and station operators.

The Department has previously provided guidance on the provision of information for persons of reduced mobility and this is available on the Department's website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100406155128/http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/rail/vehicles/pubs/rva/rvareg1998/

and

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/accessible-train-station-design/

WALES

Employment: Private Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what recent discussions she has had with HM Treasury on the effect of macro-economic policies on employment levels in the private sector in Wales; [91605]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effects of macroeconomic policy on employment levels in the private sector in Wales. [92642]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues in HM Treasury on a wide range of subjects including raising levels of private sector employment in Wales.

We recognise that it is the private sector who will lead the economic recovery in Wales, which has relied on public sector employment for too long. That is why we have taken a range of measures to create an environment where the private sector can grow and create much needed jobs in Wales.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has forecast that 1.7 million private sector jobs will be created across the UK by 2017 and Wales needs to be well positioned to create its share of these new jobs.

Shale Gas

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the First Minister of the Welsh Government and *(b)* the Welsh Local Government Association on the scale of planning applications for fracking in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [91906]

Mr David Jones: The responsibility for the planning applications for hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking' falls to the local authorities in Wales and therefore is the responsibility of the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government last week announced plans to hold a public inquiry in May into a test drilling application for shale gas in the Vale of Glamorgan; however, we are not aware of any planning applications currently before any Welsh authority for fracking operations.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92110]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office publishes the information it releases in response to Freedom of Information Act requests on a dedicated section of its website, which can be accessed at:

http://www.walesoffice.gov.uk/foi/

The average time taken between responding to a request and its publication on the website is not recorded and could be calculated only at disproportionate cost. The Department does however aim to publish released information as soon as possible after a formal reply is despatched to the requester.

Higher Education

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* First Minister of the Welsh Government, *(b)* Higher Education Funding Council Wales and *(c)* Higher Education Wales on improving the overall levels of science and technology funding in Wales; and if she will make a statement; [91904]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* First Minister of the Welsh Government, *(b)* Higher Education Funding Council Wales and *(c)* Higher Education Wales on improving the overall levels of research and development funds in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [91905]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have regular discussions with Welsh Ministers and public bodies in Wales about a range of matters relevant to Wales. These discussions have included research funding.

The Government are committed to protecting funding for science and research programmes in cash terms during the current spending review period. This includes over £2.5 billion per annum programme funding for the seven Research Councils which operate across the UK and demonstrates our commitment to promoting economic growth through innovation. I am keen for Wales to be at the heart of this and the issue will be discussed with Welsh businesses at the next meeting of the Wales Office Business Advisory Group.

The Welsh Government also provide funding in support of research undertaken by higher education institutions in Wales.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what contribution the Government Equalities Office is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if she will make a statement. [92294]

Lynne Featherstone: On 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office became part of the Home Office. The information requested will be provided by the Minister for Immigration, my hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Euthanasia

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Attorney-General in how many cases of assisted suicide for the terminally ill the Director of Public Prosecution has decided it is not in the public interest to prosecute since December 2008. [91764]

The Attorney-General: Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) headquarters centrally records cases of assisted suicide. However, its central records do not show whether cases were not proceeded with on evidential or public interest grounds, and it would not be possible to provide such information without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Mr Bain: To ask the Attorney-General if he will encourage the Director of Public Prosecutions to make available his decisions not to prosecute in cases of assisted suicide on request. [92183]

The Attorney-General: The publication of case decisions by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) depends upon the circumstances of each individual case. When it is appropriate to do so, the DPP ensures that the reasons for decisions in assisted suicide cases are published on the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) website.

Newspaper Press: Telephone Hacking

Mr Watson: To ask the Attorney-General when he expects the Crown Prosecution Service's review of the phone hacking evidence by Alison Levitt QC to report its findings; and if he will place a redacted copy of that document in the Library. [92623]

The Attorney-General: Given that there is a live investigation concerning these matters, it would be inappropriate to comment at this time. Issues such as the publication of the review will be revisited at the appropriate time.

PRIME MINISTER

Christianity

Jim Shannon: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he plans to take to promote Christian values in public life. [92031]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the speech I gave on 16 December 2011 commemorating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. A copy of the speech can be found on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/king-james-bible/

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Prime Minister whether his Office publishes on the 10 Downing street website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92129]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The Cabinet Office including the Prime Minister's Office publishes on its website responses to requests for information where there is a substantial public, rather than private, interest. Details are published on the Freedom of Information pages of the website on each occasion. No information is available about the time taken between responding to a request and the information becoming available on the website but the aim is to do so as quickly as possible.

There is no change in practice from the previous Administration.

Iraq Conflict

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Prime Minister if he will commission a National Security Council paper on the diplomatic and military lessons learnt from the Iraq campaigns. [92248]

The Prime Minister: The Iraq Inquiry, chaired by Sir John Chilcot, was established to identify lessons learned from the UK's involvement in Iraq between 2001 and 2009.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to continue additional payments for daily rates for service personnel in Afghanistan at the present level. [92333]

Mr Robathan: Yes. Our armed forces are currently deployed to the most demanding areas of conflict. It is right that they receive allowances, such as the tax free operational allowance, for the day-to-day demands of a deployment in Afghanistan.

Armed Forces: Death

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were killed in action in each country in each calendar year since 2000. [90443]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* A breakdown of the 494 UK armed forces personnel killed as a result of hostile action between 2000 and 2012 is provided in the following table, broken down by year, operation and country. Hostile action includes deaths categorised as Killed in Action—a battle casualty who is killed outright or who dies as a result of wounds or other injuries before reaching a medical treatment facility; and Died of Wounds—a battle casualty who dies of wounds or other injuries received in action after having reached a medical facility.

For information, in the same time period, 99 service personnel have died on operations from other causes such as accidents and natural causes.

UK armed forces personnel hostile action deaths by year and operation between 2000 and 2012

Operation	*Country*	*All*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*
Op Barras	Sierra Leone	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kosovo	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Op Valero	Macedonia	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Afghanistan	334	0	0	0	0	1	1	20	37	50	100	87	38	0
	Oman	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Op Herrick	UK	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	5	1
	Iraq	122	0	0	0	30	10	20	26	34	2	0	0	0	0
	Germany	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kuwait	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Op Telic	UK	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	494	1	2	0	40	11	21	48	73	52	107	95	43	1

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* Yorkshire Regiment and *(b)* Gurkha (i) full-time soldiers and (ii) reservists were based in (A) Yorkshire and the Humber, (B) North Yorkshire and York and (C) City of York in (1) May 2010 and (2) December 2011; and how many such soldiers he expects to be based in each of these areas at the conclusion of Tranche 2 of the Armed Forces Redundancy Programme; [90958]

(2) how many *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* Army and *(c)* RAF (i) full-time personnel and (ii) reservists were based in (A) Yorkshire and the Humber, (B) North Yorkshire and York and (C) City of York in (1) May 2010 and (2) December 2011; and how many such personnel he expects to be based in each of these areas at the conclusion of Tranche 2 of the Armed Forces Redundancy Programme. [90959]

Mr Robathan: The information requested in respect of Regular armed forces personnel is shown in the following tables.

	May 2010		*December 2011*	
	Yorkshire Regiment	*Gurkha*	*Yorkshire Regiment*	*Gurkha*
Yorkshire and Humber (encompassing north Yorkshire and York)				
Regular	300	530	350	[1]360
City of York				
Regular	30	130	30	130

[1] The reduction in Gurkha numbers is due to the routine move of Gurkha Reinforcement Company 2 from Catterick to Shorncliffe.

	Naval Service		*Army*		*Royal Air Force*	
	May 2010	*December 2011*	*May 2010*	*December 2011*	*May 2010*	*December 2011*
Yorkshire and Humber (encompassing north Yorkshire and York)						
Regular	180	160	12,670	12,900	2,000	2,160
City of York						
Regular	10	0	820	800	10	0

Location information in respect of reserve forces is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tranche 2 of the Armed Forces Redundancy Programme was launched on 17 January 2012 and the outcome will not be known until June of this year. It is therefore too early to say at this stage how many people in each of these regions will be affected.

Cadets

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the funding allocated by his Department for the Yardley Chase Cadet Centre will be made available. [91816]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* The Ministry of Defence is undertaking an in-depth review of its estate and how it may be used to optimise usage and value for money. This will include the Reserves and Cadets estate and is expected to conclude around mid-2012 at which time the position will become clearer.

Challenger Tanks

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 15W, on Challenger tanks, whether it is his policy that the CHARM3 weapon system could be used before the outcome of the review under Article 36 of Additional Protocol 1 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. [91835]

Nick Harvey: Should the security situation demand it, before the legal review is ready at the end of February 2012, then Challenger 2 tanks would be deployed in combat operations with appropriate anti-armour capabilities that provide our service personnel with the best possible protection.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department does not have contingency plans for the event that the outcome of the review of the legality of the CHARM3 weapon system under Article 36 of the Additional Protocol 1 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 concludes that its use could breach international humanitarian law. [91855]

Nick Harvey: CHARM3 provides our armed forces with a unique tank-based anti-armour capability which cannot be provided by other munitions.

Cleaning Services

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on dry cleaning and laundry since May 2010; and what his Department's policy is on allowing its staff to claim for such expenditure. [90949]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The MOD's military and civilian staff do not claim reimbursement for dry cleaning and laundry services, although they are permitted to use the flat-rate incidental expenses allowance for this purpose when on official business involving an overnight stay.

Where dry cleaning and laundry services are otherwise a permissible charge to the public purse, they are provided under contract (mainly as part of multi-activity contract arrangements), under local arrangements, through unit laundry facilities or by operational hygiene troops under field conditions.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much the *(a)* Chief of the Defence Staff, *(b)* Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, *(c)* Chief of the Air Staff, *(d)* Chief of the General Staff and *(e)* First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff have spent on (i) gardening, (ii) entertainment and (iii) renovation and decoration of their official residences in 2011; [88309]

(2) how many staff were employed in the official residences of the *(a)* Chief of the Defence Staff, *(b)* Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, *(c)* Chief of the Air Staff, *(d)* Chief of the General Staff and *(e)* First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff in 2011; and what the cost to his Department was of such staff; [88316]

(3) how much his Department spent on accommodation for the *(a)* Chief of the Defence Staff, *(b)* Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, *(c)* Chief of the Air Staff, *(d)* Chief of the General Staff and *(e)* First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff in 2011. [88338]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* Under previous arrangements, Official Service Residences (OSRs) were provided for senior officers in posts which required them to undertake official hospitality for defence purposes. As announced by the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan), on 12 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 63WS, these arrangements have now been discontinued and a new Domestic Assistance policy will realise savings of at least £3 million per year from April 2012.

Figures for expenditure on Official Service Residences in the financial year 2010-11 are currently being finalised. For the financial year 2009-10, the costs associated with the properties occupied by the senior officers specified are set out in the following table. It should be emphasised that responsibility for decisions on expenditure relating to these properties lies with the Ministry of Defence, and not with the officers who occupied them at the time, or the current occupants.

Post	*Accommodation (£)*	*Planned maintenance (inc. gardening) (£)*	*Entertainment costs (£)*	*Number of household staff*	*Cost of household staff (£)*
Chief of the Defence Staff	17,000	450	2,000	4	128,000
Vice Chief of the Defence Staff	20,000	1,200	2,400	1	51,000
First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff	18,000	520	2,300	4	161,000
Chief of the General Staff	[1]108,000	0	2,800	4	161,000
Chief of the Air Staff	49,000	250	6,600	4	97,000

[1] This property is part of the Crown Estate and a grant-in-aid is payable.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents of data loss or breaches of confidentiality occurred in his Department in 2011. [91723]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 25 January 2012]:* I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 24 November 2011, *Official Report,* columns 545-46W. During 2011, in 13 cases which involved the loss of personal data, the information involved was assessed as protected personal data and so can be considered to involve a breach of confidentiality.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's finance transparency dataset, (1) for what reasons £1,260.95 was spent on trips to bowling alleys by his Department; and who was present on those trips; [91326]

(2) for what reasons £69,923.26 was spent on music and piano stores by his Department; [91327]

(3) for what reasons £48,057 was spent on bars, pubs and nightclubs by his Department; what the dates were of such trips; who was present; and which venues were visited on each occasion; [91328]

(4) for what reasons £6,012.82 was spent on shopping trips to cosmetic stores by his Department; [91329]

(5) for what reasons £8,769.02 was spent on jewellery by his Department; [91330]

(6) for what reasons £2,004.80 was spent on cinema trips; and who was present on those trips; [91641]

(7) for what reasons £55,316.41 was spent on theatrical producers; [91642]

(8) for what reasons £16,584 was spent on trailer parks; and who was present on those trips; [91643]

(9) for what reasons £9,215.62 was spent at tourist attractions and exhibits; and who was present on those trips. [91644]

Peter Luff: Ministry of Defence expenditure paid for by Government Procurement Card is, for security and administrative reasons, reported against merchant transaction categories of VISA'S own taxonomy. The categories, which are designed to provide VISA with data on their customers' business sectors, do not always accurately explain the nature of goods or services procured by the Department, and do not in themselves represent the full audit trail.

Expenditure listed as 'trips to bowling alleys' incurred between 1 April and 30 September 2011 relates to leisure activities organised for Army new recruits as part of their induction into their training programme.

Expenditure listed as 'music and piano stores' (totalling £296,198.34) was incurred between 1 April and 30 September 2011 in support of the Royal School of Music's training programme and on musical instruments for military bands.

Expenditure listed as 'bars, pubs and nightclubs', incurred between 1 April and 30 September 2011, represents the costs of accommodation and meals provided for military and civilian staff on detached duty, military operations and training exercises. I am withholding information on venues to protect the safety of our staff and suppliers.

Expenditure listed as 'shopping trips to cosmetic stores' incurred between 1 April and 30 September 2011 relates to the purchases of demineralised water for a search radar in service with the Royal Navy and the purchase of air fresheners for waitng rooms and toilets in Careers Offices throughout the country.

Expenditure listed as 'jewellery' incurred between 1 April and 30 September 2011 relates to the maintenance of a clocking-in machine at an MOD establishment, the purchase of new signs at an MOD establishment and for the provision of infantry dog tags and MOD police warrant card holders.

Expenditure listed as 'cinema trips' incurred between 1 April and 30 September 2011 relates to the hire of a local venue for the Army Presentation Team and a leisure activity for new junior soldiers.

Expenditure listed as 'theatrical producers' incurred between 1 April and 31 October 2011 relates to:

Car parking fees for Army and RAF Careers Offices in the west country.

Cultural awareness training for Army Officers.

Conference facilities for a staff awayday.

Exhibition stands for the disposal of surplus military equipment.

Local Education services for a Service School.

Corporate hospitality for visiting VIPs from overseas.

Ferry tickets for rwd Arrows' support vehicles.

RAF recruitment activities.

Activity in support of new junior soldier training.

Expenditure listed as 'trailer parks' incurred between 1 April and 30 September 2011 relates to:

The use of a local swimming pool by an RAF station to provide sports facilities for new trainees, sports afternoons and rehabilitation therapy.

Accommodation for an RAF adventure training course.

Accommodation for a Joint Service Mountain Training Centre adventure training course.

Duke of Edinburgh award scheme activities in support of new junior soldier training.

Expenditure listed as 'tourist attractions and exhibits' incurred between 1 April and 30 September 2011 relates to:

Annual car parking for an armed forces careers office.

Army officer training.

Acquaint visits to the Portsmouth Naval Base and Museum for potential recruits to the Royal Navy.

The annual Navy Day.

An RAF adventure training course.

Leisure activities in support of new junior soldier training.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former employees of Alix Partners are employed by his Department; how many former employees of his Department are employed by Alix Partners; and if he will make a statement. [92008]

Mr Robathan: No former employees of AlixPartners are employed by the Ministry of Defence and, as far as we are aware, no former Ministry of Defence employees are employed by AlixPartners.

Departmental Theft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what items with a monetary value of more than £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department in each month since March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [90989]

Peter Luff: The information requested will be placed in the Library of the House. The MOD takes detecting and deterring theft very seriously. Where a suspected perpetrator is identified prosecution or internal disciplinary action will follow as appropriate.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what thefts there have been from Ministry of Defence establishments since March 2011; and what the value was of the items taken. [89842]

Mr Robathan: The information will be placed in the Library of the House.

Disclosure of Information

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 526W, on disclosure of information, if he will publish the findings of the inquiry into the unauthorised disclosure of the letter between the former Secretary of State and the Prime Minister which appeared in The Daily Telegraph on 28 September 2010. [90290]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* The investigation remains open. The person responsible for the leak has not been identified.

Ex-Servicemen: Mental Health Services

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department is providing to veterans who are experiencing mental health disorders as a result of their service in the armed forces. [92418]

Mr Robathan: Medical care for our former armed forces personnel remains the responsibility of the national health service. However, the Ministry of Defence continues to work closely with the Department of Health to implement all the recommendations contained in the 'Fighting Fit' report produced by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison). These include the launch of a 24-hour helpline, the introduction of an enhanced mental health assessment in discharge medicals, the introduction of an online early intervention service, the Big White Wall, and the launch in April 2012 of a Veterans Information Service.

We also greatly value the work being done by the mental health charities, such as Combat Stress, and look forward to continuing to work with them.

Ex-Servicemen: Military Decorations

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans to recognise the service of military veterans through a medal. [92307]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 11W, to the hon. Member for Cheltenham (Martin Horwood).

Falkland Islands: Defence

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding he plans to allocate to defence of the Falkland Islands in each of the next three years. [91671]

Nick Harvey: The current, provisional, forecast for provision of funding for British Forces South Atlantic Islands, through the Joint Forces Command Top Level Budget which will shortly assume this budgetary responsibility, is as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2012-13	61
2013-14	63
2014-15	65

From 2011-12, responsibility and funding for estates management, including accommodation costs and utilities such as electricity and fuel oil, transferred to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation; this and funding in the other top level budgets is not shown in the table, to provide each top level budget's expenditure in relation to the Falkland Islands would incur disproportionate cost.

Germany: Armed Forces

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with mobile telephone companies on enabling UK service personnel in Germany to obtain mobile telephone contracts although they have no credit rating in the UK. [92332]

Mr Robathan: We have had no such discussions with commercial mobile telephone organisations. However, as part of our work on the Armed Forces Covenant we continue to work with credit reference agencies on a proposed technical solution that will allow British Forces Post Office addresses to be recognised in the same way as a United Kingdom postcode. This will facilitate financial services and online retail for those with such addresses overseas.

International Law: Cybercrime

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent *(a)* multilateral and *(b)* bilateral discussions he has had with his (i) international and (ii) European counterparts on establishing international law in the area of cyber security; and if he will make a statement. [91880]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* The Ministry of Defence has been working closely with NATO allies at a number of multilateral discussions on the formulation of the NATO cyber defence action plan.

The action plan is a living document that will be continuously updated to ensure NATO is at the forefront of developments in cyberspace and maintains the necessary flexibility to meet the challenges posed by cyber-threats.

The action plan was a product of the 2010 Lisbon summit, where the Heads of State tasked the North Atlantic Council to develop a revised NATO cyber defence policy. The policy itself was then developed and approved by NATO Defence Ministers on 8 June 2011; the action plan is the implementation tool for the policy.

Cyberspace must be regarded as an operating environment. Therefore, it is our current position that to deal with so called cybercrime, cyber-terrorism and cyber-war, existing legal structures should be used rather than cyber-specific legislation being introduced.

Military Attachés: Pakistan

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel are attached to the British high commission in Islamabad; what the rank of such personnel is; and what duties they perform. [91849]

Nick Harvey: There are five service personnel that form the Defence Section in the British high commission in Islamabad. Their current roles and ranks are shown in the following table:

Defence section role	*Rank*
Defence Adviser	OF-6/1* (Brigadier)
Air and Naval Adviser	OF-5 (Group Captain)
Assistant Defence Adviser	OF-4 (Lieutenant Colonel)
Assistant Military Adviser	OF-2 (Captain)
Assistant Air and Naval Adviser	OR-6 (Petty Officer)

The Defence Attaché is appointed to the high commissioner in Islamabad as the Chief of the Defence Staff's representative and Head of the Defence Section representing the Ministry of Defence and UK armed forces. The Defence Section works closely with the Government of Pakistan to pursue a close bilateral defence relationship, build partnerships between our armed forces, and provide bespoke military support to Her Majesty's Government's policy priorities to protect and promote the UK's influence and interests.

Nuclear Submarines

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which locations are being considered as an alternative operating base for the Vanguard class SSBN submarines; [90795]

(2) what criteria his Department plans to use to evaluate future locations for the operating base of Vanguard class SSBN submarines; [90796]

(3) which Royal Navy sites are equipped to become the operating base of Vanguard class SSBN submarines; [90797]

(4) if he will estimate the likely cost of developing a new operating base for the Vanguard class SSBN submarines. [90798]

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of moving *(a)* T class and *(b)* Astute class submarines to Plymouth. [90637]

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has made plans for the base porting of Royal Navy nuclear submarines in the case of future independence of Scotland and Scotland becoming a nuclear-free zone. [90644]

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the possibility of Scottish independence, what assessment he has made of the feasibility of moving Vanguard class SSBN submarines from Faslane to Devonport. [91071]

Peter Luff *[holding answers 19, 20 and 23 January 2012]:* The Ministry of Defence is not making plans to change the base ports of those classes of submarines currently base-ported at Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde. The Department does not therefore hold cost estimates or other information that would relate to such changes.

The Government are clear that Scotland benefits from being part of the UK and the UK benefits from having Scotland within it. The Government are not making plans for independence as we are confident that people in Scotland will continue to support the Union in any referendum.

Pakistan: Military Alliances

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* extent of military links with the Government of Pakistan are; and if he will make a statement. [91820]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* The Defence Section in Islamabad works closely with the Government of Pakistan, and the Pakistan military, to pursue a close bilateral defence relationship, build partnerships between our armed forces and provide bespoke military support to Her Majesty's Government's policy priorities to protect and promote the UK's influence and interests.

We encourage senior UK officers to foster a good working relationship with their Pakistan military counterparts, and there are a large number of regimental affiliations between UK and Pakistani military units, which can include exchanges of officers.

Departmental Expenditure: Restaurants

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred on restaurant meals for civil servants since May 2010; and *(a)* on how many occasions and *(b)* in respect of which restaurants his Department incurred such expenditure in that period; and if he will make a statement. [91068]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* Expenditure on meals in restaurants reimbursed to civil servants on official duty away from their normal place of work is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. A robust spot audit process is in place to ensure that claims are legitimate and correct.

Moreover, information on venues and locations of such expenditure would be withheld to protect the safety of our staff and suppliers.

Crown servants are not permitted to entertain each other at public expense.

Territorial Army

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish his plan for the future of the Territorial Army. [91819]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* As part of Defence transformation it is envisaged that there will be an integrated Army of around 120,000 by 2020, comprising a trained strength of 82,000 regular and at least 30,000 reserves, with a training margin of 8,000 reserves. Across Defence, the reserves will benefit from £1.5 billion investment over 10 years to reinvigorate their contribution to all three services.

These changes will require the Army to review and rebalance its structure, both in terms of its regular and reserve forces, in order to identify when and how these changes will take place. This detailed work is now under way as part of Army 2020 which I expect to receive for consideration in spring 2012.

Trident Missiles

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what annual service fees are paid to the US Administration for the storage and reprocessing of Trident missiles at the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic, Kings Bay, Georgia. [91253]

Peter Luff: Under the Polaris Sales Agreement as amended for Trident, the UK pays the US Department of Defence an annual contribution towards the overall cost of the US Navy's Strategic Weapons Facility at Kings Bay, Georgia.

This contribution, which includes storage and reprocessing work, is based on the UK's share of the overall missile inventory, and amounts to around £12 million a year.

EDUCATION

Academies

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information he holds on how schools which have converted to academies are fulfilling their duty to assist less successful schools. [91476]

Mr Gibb: Schools that are performing well are in a strong position to help other schools raise standards by sharing good practice and expertise. 1,194 converter academies are supporting over 1,600 named schools.

As part of the academy conversion process applicant schools provide the Department with the name of the school or schools they will be supporting and what that support is likely to involve. We do not monitor how schools choose to work together following conversion.

Adoption

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many sets of parents *(a)* began and *(b)* completed the registration process for adoption in each year from 1997 to 2010. [91796]

Tim Loughton: This information is not collected centrally.

In December the Government set up a working group of key partners from across the adoption sector to redesign the recruitment, preparation, training and assessment process for prospective adopters including what, if any, new monitoring mechanisms might be needed. We expect the group's proposals to inform further reform in due course.

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were adopted by UK couples from *(a)* the domestic care system and *(b)* overseas in each year from 1997 to 2011. [91797]

Tim Loughton: The information on the number of looked after children who have been adopted from care can be found in table G1 of Statistical First Release "Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2011", which is available on the Department's website via the following link. This table can be found in the Excel file which is available via the link entitled 'England Summary Tables'

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001026/index.shtml

Adoption is a devolved function and the Department does not hold data on adoption in the devolved Administrations.

Data on the number of intercountry adoptions are only available for 2010 and 2011, and the figures are estimates only:

	Number
2010	174
2011	154

These figures include intercountry adoptions by prospective adopters resident in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the isle of Man who have made an inter-country adoption from countries that have not implemented the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has assessed the effects of downshifting on *(a)* family life and *(b)* children's subjective well-being. [90899]

Tim Loughton: No such assessment has been made by the Department.

Children in Care

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that each young person in transition from the looked after system into adulthood has a dedicated key worker. [92363]

Tim Loughton: Local authorities have clearly defined duties and responsibilities for their care leavers. The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 and guidance "Planning Transition for Adulthood for Care Leavers" requires local authorities to provide young people reaching the age of 18 with appropriate leaving care support. This includes a regularly reviewed pathway plan and the allocation of a personal adviser who will provide advice and support on a range of matters including accommodation. This help continues up until the young person reaches the age of 21, or beyond if the young person is still in education.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure greater stability of care placements in accordance with the Foster Carers' Charter. [92364]

Tim Loughton: Of the children looked after at 31 March 2011, 67% (43,870) had only one placement during the year, and 11% had three or more placements. This compares to 65% and 13% respectively in 2007[1]. But although placement stability is improving, we need to do more.

The Prime Minister announced in October his intention to secure a new focus on improving services for looked after children. We are developing an extensive programme of work to support improvements in the care system, and as part of this we will be assessing the take-up and impact of the Foster Carers' Charter. We will set out further detail on our wider reform proposals in due course.

Children: Adoption

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether there are circumstances under which children adopted from overseas can be given priority under the School Admissions Code, in recognition that they may have suffered hardships similar to those who are accorded such priority. [91012]

Tim Loughton: Looked after children have, since February 2006, had priority access under the School Admissions Code. We have proposed a number of changes to the Admissions Code, including that looked after children who leave care under an adoption order (or special guardianship or residence order) retain the entitlement they previously had as a looked after child. The amendments to the code are intended to support the adoption of children from care.

Children adopted from abroad do not have this entitlement, although I do, of course, recognise that some children adopted from overseas will also have difficult and challenging needs, as do many children who live with their birth families.

There are already provisions in place to support children with special educational needs (SEN) identified at School Action or School Action Plus. School admission processes must not discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with SEN. For all children whose statement of special educational needs names the school, the child must be admitted. For a child with a statement of SEN, parents have the right to express a preference for any maintained school, and the LA must comply with the parental preference unless the school is unsuitable to the child's age, ability, aptitude or special educational needs, or the placement would be incompatible with the efficient education of the other children with whom the child would be educated, or with the efficient use of resources.

Children: Day Care

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 461-2W, on child care, whether his Department has made an assessment of changes to the availability and cost of out-of-school childcare; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that local authorities meet their statutory duties. [91517]

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[1] Department for Education: Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2011.

Sarah Teather: Data on the availability and cost of out-of-school childcare is collected through two surveys: the Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents and the Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey. These surveys provide the Department and the public with information to help monitor the changes in the availability and cost of child care. The 2010 Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents is due to be published in June 2012. The 2010 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey was published in September 2011.

The 2009 Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents is available on the Department's website at the following address:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/Earlyyearsandchildcareworkforce/Page1/DFE-RRQ54

The 2010 Childcare and Early Years Providers is available from the Department's website at the following address:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/OSR17/2011

Local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient child care locally to meet the needs of working parents, particularly families with disabled children. We want local authorities to do more to keep parents informed about how they are meeting this duty. We are currently consulting on whether an annual report would enable parents to hold their local authority to account for the availability of suitable child care, including provision for disabled children. The consultation is available on the Department's website and will remain open until 3 February.

Child Protection

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many serious case reviews have been undertaken *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each English local authority area in each of the last five years. [91650]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 25 January 2012]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 85W.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the number of serious case reviews undertaken by local authorities where a child or family have moved between local authorities in the previous year. [91651]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 25 January 2012]:* Data about the number of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) where a child or family have moved between local authorities in the previous year is not available centrally.

The Government's statutory guidance, "Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)", is clear about which Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) should take lead responsibility for conducting a SCR when partner agencies from more than one LSCB area have had contact with a child and their family.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the findings of the report entitled Child Neglect in 2011 published by Action for Children in January 2012; and if he will make a statement. [92615]

Tim Loughton: The earlier that help is given to vulnerable children and families, the more chance there is of turning lives around and protecting children from harm. The Government are currently addressing many of the concerns raised in the Action for Children report, shifting the focus onto earlier intervention. This is one reason why last year we asked Professor Munro to carry out an independent review of child protection. She identified that services are often too reactive, and we are now helping children's services, police and the NHS to work together and focus on early identification before problems escalate. We are also working with Ofsted to make sure their inspections look at whether children are getting the help they need.

Through revisions to the Government's statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2010) we are planning to free social workers from bureaucracy and reduce statutory guidance so they have more time and space for better quality assessments.

The Department for Education through the children in need (CIN) census collects data on individual children assessed as being in need due to neglect and on those who are the subject of a child protection plan because of neglect. On 23 January the Department launched a public consultation on the national children's safeguarding performance information recommended by Professor Eileen Munro. This includes additional information on neglect. Depending on the results of the consultation some items collected in the CIN census may change prior to the children's safeguarding performance information framework being published in May 2012. We have also developed and agreed with the sector the performance information that local areas should collect to monitor children's safeguarding which includes a local understanding of the impact of services and the needs of the children and young people.

Debt Recovery

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88369]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), can confirm that his Department has not used the services of debt recovery companies prior to or since May 2010.

E-mail

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the Information Commissioner's guidance on official information held in private email accounts, how much his Department has spent on legal advice on the compliance of the practice of deleting private emails concerning Government business sent or received by him or his special advisers with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [91488]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* The Department has not incurred any expenditure on this matter.

Ministerial Office: Funding

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [78018]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), does not receive any external funding for either his ministerial office or his advisers.

Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 227W, on departmental recruitment, how much of the £274,452.26 spent on recruitment agencies was spent on agency *(a)* fees and *(b)* staff. [92595]

Tim Loughton: The fees for both the Department's agency worker providers are factored in to each of their agreed set of rates. The rates for each provider vary according to the grade of the agency worker and their location—currently five groups across four locations. The agency rates are revised, as appropriate, to take account of any statutory changes in national insurance.

The information requested is not held centrally because the Department's invoicing process does not separate the fee from the amount paid direct to the agency worker.

English Baccalaureate

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will consider including *(a)* music and *(b)* other intellectually rigorous, creative and technical subjects within a sixth pillar of the English Baccalaureate. [91701]

Mr Gibb: The English Baccalaureate recognises schools' and pupils' GCSE achievements in a core set of academic subjects. The subjects included in the English Baccalaureate are those most commonly required at A level for entry onto leading universities' courses; some of these subjects—languages, history and geography—have been in decline and the Government want more pupils to have the opportunity to study them.

We do not want schools to restrict pupils' options to just this academic core. The composition of the English Baccalaureate has been kept small to allow for additional study including music and intellectually rigorous technical and creative subjects. We have no immediate plans to change the composition of the English Baccalaureate but will keep its composition under review, and continue to monitor its impact on GCSE subject choices, including by reviewing GCSE entries in 2012.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92122]

Tim Loughton: Disclosure logs for the publication of departmental responses to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 are not mandatory for public authorities.

Nevertheless, in line with best practice, the Department maintains a disclosure log on its website where it publishes anonymised FOI responses likely to be of wider interest to the general public.

There are currently some 234 responses to FOI requests on the disclosure log, sub-divided by category to aid navigation. The time taken to upload the response varies, but the most recent example was a request made on 16 November 2011; the information was published on the website on 20 January 2012. The disclosure log can be accessed at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/foi

GCE A-Level

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1219W on GCE A-level, what proportion of pupils from *(a)* comprehensive schools and *(b)* independent mainstream schools achieved (i) three or more A Levels graded A or A* and (ii) three or more A Level passes at any grade in (A) the furthest year back for which figures are available without incurring disproportionate cost and (B) 2010. [89094]

Mr Gibb: The information for the years 2006 and 2010 is given as follows (the A* grade was not awarded in 2006):

Percentage of students[1, 2, 3] achieving three or more A levels graded A or A and three or more A level passes at comprehensive and independent mainstream schools*

Percentage

	(A) 2006		*(B) 2010*	
Admissions policy of school[4]	*Students achieving three or more A levels graded A*	*Students achieving three or more A level passes at any grade*	*Students achieving three or more A levels graded A or A**	*Students achieving three or more A level passes at any grade*
Comprehensive[5]	6.8	74.1	8.2	74.6
Independent mainstream[6]	29.2	91.3	32.4	89.8

[1] Students entered for a GCE or Applied GCE A level or double award, not including equivalent qualifications.

[2] Including attempts and achievements by these students in previous academic years.

[3] 16 to 18-year-old students entered for GCE/VCE A level qualifications.

[4] School type as recorded in Edubase.

[5] Including city technology colleges and academies.

[6] Excluding non-maintained and independent special schools.

Source:

Post 16 School Performance Tables (Final data).

GCSE: Assessments

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many entrants for GCSE examinations were permitted additional time to complete the examination in each of the last 15 years; and how many children were recorded as having *(a)* specific learning difficulties and *(b)* statements of special educational needs in (i) Year 7 and (ii) Year 11 in each of those years. [91251]

Mr Gibb: The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and its predecessor the Joint Council for General Qualifications (JCGQ) have collected data on those students awarded extra time in exams of up to 25% since the 2004/05 academic year. These arrangements are for candidates with a range of disabilities and medical conditions. The figures are set out in Table 1 as follows and relate to both GCSE and GCE qualifications as data are not collected specifically for GCSEs.

Table 1: Extra time in exams of up to 25%

	Number of requests approved
2004/05	35,319
2005/06	56,900
2006/07	69,226
2007/08	78,750
2008/09	144,721
2009/10	109,773
2010/11	117,169

Notes:

1. In exceptional circumstances candidates can be entitled to extra time of more than 25%.
2. The way in which data have been collected has changed significantly over this period.
3. Candidates may have had more than one agreed access arrangement in place such as extra time of up to 25% and a reader, or extra time of up to 25% and a scribe.

The number of pupils recorded as having specific learning difficulties and statements of special education needs (SEN) in years 7 and 11 from 2004 onwards (the earliest period for which data are available) can be found in Table 2 as follows:

Table 2: State-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1]. Number of pupils[2] with a statement of special educational need (SEN) or a specific learning difficulty (type of need)[3] in national curriculum years 7 and 11. January 2004 to January 2011, England

	National curriculum year 7				*National curriculum year 11*			
		Specific learning difficulty[3]				*Specific learning difficulty[3]*		
	Pupils with a statement of SEN	*School Action Plus*	*Statement of SEN*	*Total*	*Pupils with a statement of SEN*	*School Action Plus*	*Statement of SEN*	*Total*
2004[4]	23,080	6,195	2,850	9,045	24,395	3,220	3,915	7,135
2005	22,345	6,350	2,280	8,630	24,095	3,725	3,540	7,260
2006	21,675	6,805	2,010	8,815	24,075	4,195	3,280	7,470
2007	20,685	6,935	1,825	8,760	23,895	4,640	2,895	7,535
2008	20,050	7,180	1,460	8,640	23,455	5,185	2,640	7,825
2009	20,720	8,075	1,450	9,525	22,800	5,635	2,270	7,905
2010	20,365	7,860	1,355	9,215	22,220	6,155	1,970	8,125
2011	20,120	7,625	1,290	8,915	21,695	6,105	1,865	7,965

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, primary academies, secondary academies, city technology colleges and maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[2] Includes pupils with sole or dual main registration.

[3] Pupils at School Action Plus and those pupils with a statement of SEN provided information on their primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is given here.

[4] In 2004, may include some pupils recorded at statutory assessment stage.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

School Census

Parental Responsibility

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that people have fair access to their grandchildren, nieces, nephews or cousins following a bereavement or divorce. [91784]

Tim Loughton: The vast majority of families make their own arrangements to ensure that children keep in contact with their extended family following divorce or separation. Where families cannot reach their own agreements, family members may apply to the court for a child contact order.

There may be cases where it is appropriate for grandparents or other family members to assume some or all care responsibilities for children, for example following the death of a child's parents. Grandparents and other family members may, with the permission of the court, apply for a child residence order.

The Government will shortly publish its response to the Family Justice Review which considered, among other issues, how children can stay in contact with their grandparents and other family members following family separation or divorce.

Playgrounds: Hartlepool

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has allocated for provision of children's and young people's play areas in Hartlepool constituency in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [87784]

Sarah Teather: The Department has not allocated funding for provision of children's and young people's play areas to Hartlepool or any local area or authority in the financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13. The Department's play capital programme finished at the end of March 2011, as originally intended under the previous Government's Play Strategy.

The Government recognise how important it is that children have safe, local places to play, and the benefits these places bring to the wider community more generally. However, it is not for central Government to determine what play facilities are available in local areas, or to tell the experts in the play sector how to deliver play provision. Children, parents, play professionals and local communities best know what is most needed in their local areas.

The Government are moving control over local decisions and expenditure away from the centre, giving communities more control over developments in their neighbourhoods, and making it easier for volunteers and charities to get involved. This approach should provide the freedom and flexibility for local areas to meet their own priorities for spending, which may include play, and make the most of the resources available.

Pupil Premium

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students have received pupil premium funding in North Swindon constituency since its introduction. [90821]

Sarah Teather: The pupil premium was introduced in April 2011 and allocations have so far been made for the 2011-12 financial year. Pupil premium funding is provided in respect of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM), children in care who have been continuously looked after for at least six months and children whose parents are serving in the armed forces. In the North Swindon constituency there were 2,140 pupils on the January 2011 school censuses recorded as known to be eligible for FSM or recorded as service children who have received the pupil premium to date. The total number of pupils eligible for the pupil premium in the North Swindon constituency may be higher, but it is not possible to identify the number of pupils in each parliamentary constituency recorded as being in care or recorded in the alternative provision census as, in both cases, the returns are provided at local authority level rather than at establishment level.

School Visits

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether it is his Department's policy that when an official from his Department attends a governing body or sub-committee meeting at a school the local authority is informed in advance. [87060]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* We are keen to work in partnership with local authorities when officials from the Department visit schools and make every effort to notify the appropriate local authority in advance of a visit.

Schools: King James Bible

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much has been spent on storage for the King James Bible project; on what date the copies of the Bible in storage were printed; and where they are located. [92621]

Mr Gibb: To mark the 400th anniversary year of the publication of the King James Bible, the Department for Education is sending a facsimile copy to each state primary and secondary school in England. This will enable all pupils to understand its place in our nation's identity and history.

Printing will commence in the next few months, and therefore no storage costs have been incurred.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence he has sent to companies seeking funding for the King James Bible project in the last 12 months. [92622]

Mr Gibb: To mark the 400th anniversary year of the publication of the King James Bible, the Department for Education is sending a facsimile copy to each state primary and secondary school in England. This will enable all pupils to understand its place in our nation's identity and history.

Ministers are in discussion with potential sponsors.

Schools: Capital Investment

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much of the £1.2 billion increase in spending on school buildings will be allocated to schools in *(a)* Ashfield constituency and *(b)* Nottinghamshire. [91591]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* As announced in the Chancellor's autumn statement, the Department for Education has been allocated an additional £600 million to support the provision of pupil places and £600 million to support the expansion of the free schools programme. Departmental officials are considering how best to allocate this funding and announcements on specific allocations will be made in due course.

Schools: Information and Communications Technology

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much maintained schools in England spent on IT *(a)* in total, *(b)* hardware, *(c)* software, *(d)* consultancy fees and *(e)* other expenditure in each of the last 10 years. [91352]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect expenditure on hardware, software and consultancy fees specifically, but through the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) data collection we can identify the amount spent on information and communication technology (ICT) resources which includes expenditure on computer hardware, educational software and cost of maintenance contracts for ICT used for teaching. The following table shows the expenditure for local authority maintained schools' respective levels of spend from 2002-03 to 2010-11.

Total spend across maintained schools in England[1,2] on ICT Learning Resource[3] and ICT Hardware/Software[4]: 2002-03 to 2009-10

	ICT learning resource	*ICT Hardware/ Software*
2002-03	291,237,598	67,070,792
2003-04	355,594,967	128,901,591
2004-05	437,877,822	190,095,786
2005-06	469,522,633	229,160,855
2006-07	444,576,221	214,318,573
2007-08	473,398,978	172,336,284
2008-09	460,299,919	186,264,035
2009-10	431,779,766	243,564,433
2010-11	441,373,065	187,280,693

[1] Figures contained in the table are taken from data supplied by maintained schools (nursery, primary, secondary and special), pupil referral units (PRUs) and LAs in the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) collection. The figures for 2010-11 may differ from those published in the CFR Statistical Release in December 2011 due to the inclusion of PRU figures, who supply figures on a voluntary basis. Traditionally questions of this kind have been answered using Section 251 Outturn information which is collected and verified by LAs on a similar academic year basis, and uses CFR data to feed into aggregate LA figures. For this request it was necessary to use the underlying school level CFR information as the amount of spend on 'ICT Hardware/Software (CE04)' that is collected in the CFR exercise is not part of the data that feeds into Section 251 Outturn reports.

[2] The 2002-03 financial year was the first year of collection and figures in this format are not available previous to that year. There are known data issues with this year and figures should be used with caution.

[3] Included in 'ICT Learning Resource (E20)' is spend on educational software, including site or other licences, hardware including keyboards, monitors, printers etc. used for teaching purposes, purchase, lease, hire or maintenance, contracts of ICT used for teaching, costs of Broadband, ISDN, ASDL or other dedicated phone lines, and ICT in schools revenue expenditure. Excluded from this field is spend on resources that are used for specific administration purposes (See CFR field E22), where a resource is used for curriculum and administration purposes, and where costs are material, costs or estimates of the split should be coded separately at the time of purchase, and ICT expenditure that is over the de minimis level (See CFR field CE04).

[4] Included in 'ICT Hardware/Software (CE04)' is spend on e-learning credit expenditure, purchase of computer hardware and software where these are to be capitalised or are funded from capital grant, and ICT in schools capital expenditure. Excluded from this field is spend on costs of consultancy that can be identified individually, which should be allocated under the specific expenditure groups within expenditure (See CFR fields E27, E28), and costs of training for staff in the use of ICT systems (See CFR field E09).

The figures supplied cover spending on ICT learning resources (E20) and information and communication technology (CE04) as outlined in the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) guide and so include:

ICT learning resources

educational software, including site or other licences, etc., used for teaching purposes

hardware, including keyboards, monitors, printers etc., used for teaching purposes

purchase, lease, hire or maintenance contracts of ICT used for teaching

costs of broadband, ISDN, ASDL or other dedicated phone lines.

Information and communication technology

purchase of computer hardware and software where these are to be capitalised and are funded from capital grant.

Schools: Sanitation

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received regarding the standard of school *(a)* toilet and *(b)* water facilities for pupils. [91664]

Mr Gibb: The Department is consulting on revised standards for school premises, which include regulations for toilet and washing facilities and for water supplies, including drinking water. This public consultation lasted 12 weeks and will conclude on the 26 January 2012.

By 23 January, over 80 responses had been received, but an analysis of these will not commence until the week commencing 30 January when all the responses have been processed. The intention is to publish the results of the consultation and the Department's response on the Department's website, in the spring. This will show data on the responses to the proposed standards for toilets and washing facilities and for water supplies, including a consolidation of the comments received about them.

Schools: Swindon

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in South Swindon constituency qualified for the pupil premium in the last year for which figures are available. [91140]

Sarah Teather: The pupil premium was introduced in April 2011 and allocations have so far been made for the 2011-12 financial year. Pupil premium funding is provided in respect of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM), children in care who have been continuously looked after for at least six months and children whose parents are serving in the armed forces. In the South Swindon constituency there were 2,210 pupils on the January 2011 school censuses recorded as known to be eligible for FSM or recorded as service children who qualified for the pupil premium. The total number of pupils eligible for the pupil premium in the South Swindon constituency may be higher, but it is not possible to identify the number of pupils in each parliamentary constituency recorded as being in care or recorded in the alternative provision census as, in both cases, the returns are provided at local authority level rather than at establishment level.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in South Swindon constituency were excluded from school in each of the last 10 years. [91141]

Mr Gibb: Information for the years 2005/06 to 2009/10 is shown in the table.

Data on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time in 2003/04 via the Termly Exclusions Survey, and both fixed period and permanent exclusions were collected via the School Census for the first time in 2005/06. Data has been provided for five years, covering the period 2005/06 to 2009/10. To provide data for any further years would incur disproportionate cost.

The latest information on exclusions at national and local authority level was published in the Statistical First Release "Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2009/10", available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001016/index.shtml

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3], number and percentage of permanent exclusions and pupil enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions[4, 5], South Swindon parliamentary constituency, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	Permanent Exclusions[4]							
	Primary[1]		State-funded secondary[1, 2]		Special[3]		Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools	
	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of the school population[6]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of the school population[6]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of the school population[6]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of the school population[6]
2005/06[7]	0	0.00	6	0.10	0	0.00	10	0.04
2006/07	0	0.00	15	0.21	0	0.00	20	0.10
2007/08	[9]—	[9]—	24	0.34	0	0.00	30	0.16
2008/09	[9]—	[9]—	10	0.14	0	0.00	10	0.07
2009/10	[9]—	[9]—	8	0.12	0	0.00	10	0.06

	Pupil enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions[5]							
	Primary[1]		State-funded secondary[1, 2]		Special[3]		Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools	
	Pupil enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions[5]	Percentage of the school population[6]	Pupil enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions[5]	Percentage of the school population[6]	Pupil enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions[5]	Percentage of the school population[6]	Pupil enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions[5]	Percentage of the school population[6]
2005/06[7]	[8]—	[8]—	480	7.86	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
2006/07	23	0.28	495	6.83	[9]—	[9]—	520	3.35
2007/08	59	0.73	414	5.83	0	0.00	470	3.12
2008/09	29	0.36	347	4.96	0	0.00	380	2.50
2009/10	42	0.53	330	4.80	0	0.00	370	2.51

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Permanent exclusion figures at constituency level are as reported by schools. Published figures at national and local authority level were adjusted following an exercise to check the total number of exclusions with local authorities.

[5] Pupils may be counted more than once if they moved schools during the year, or are registered at more than one school.

[6] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) as at January each year.

[7] For the 2005/06 school year, only information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools was available.

[8] Not available—no exclusions collected for schools of this type.

[9] Less than 5 or a percentage based on less than 5.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in the South Swindon constituency have been placed in the category of school action plus in each of the last five years. [91143]

Mr Gibb: The available information on the number of pupils with special educational needs at school action plus in the South Swindon constituency, in the south-west and in England is shown in the following table.

All schools[1]: Number of pupils with special educational needs at school action plus[2], January 2007-11, England

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
England	418,160	447,465	472,810	503,050	500,155
South-west	33,135	34,815	36,685	39,185	40,060
South Swindon parliamentary constituency	730	787	792	787	785

[1] Includes nursery schools, middle schools as deemed, primary academies, secondary academies, city technology colleges, maintained and special schools and pupil referral units. Excludes general hospital schools and independent schools.

[2] Includes pupils with sole or dual main registration.

Note:

National and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Schools Census.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in the South Swindon constituency have been in receipt of a statement of special educational needs in each of the last five years. [91144]

Mr Gibb: The available information on the number of pupils with statements of special educational needs in the South Swindon constituency, in the south-west and in England is shown in the following table.

All schools[1]: Pupils with statements of special educational needs[2], as at January 2007-11, England

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
England	232,760	227,315	225,400	223,945	224,210
South-west	20,820	20,620	20,565	20,580	20,470
South Swindon	281	280	299	332	317

[1] Includes nursery schools, middle schools as deemed, primary academies, secondary academies, city technology colleges, maintained and special schools and pupil referral units. Excludes general hospital schools and independent schools.

[2] Includes pupils with sole or dual main registration.

Note:

National and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Schools Census.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in the South Swindon constituency have received A*-C grades in their *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* English GCSE in each of the last five years. [91145]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following table:

Numbers and percentages of pupils[1,2] at the end of key stage 4 achieving A-C grades in English and mathematics GCSEs[3,4] in South Swindon constituency[5], south-west region[6] and England[7]. Years: 2006-10. Coverage: England*

Number and percentage of KS4 pupils achieving A-C in*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
English					
South Swindon (number)	656	862	783	833	899
South Swindon (percentage)	55.6	60.0	57.2	61.1	68.1
South-west (number)	34,618	35,006	35,547	35,964	38,087
South-west (percentage)	59.6	60.4	61.7	63.5	66.9
England (number)	338,325	349,086	357,983	358,136	382,870
England (percentage)	57.1	58.3	60.1	62.1	66.5
Maths					
South Swindon (number)	581	761	706	755	786
South Swindon (percentage)	49.2	53.0	51.5	55.4	59.5
South-west (number)	31,412	31,908	32,832	34,013	35,914
South-west (percentage)	54.1	55.0	57.0	60.1	63.1
England (number)	307,025	323,044	335,453	339,196	360,532
England (percentage)	51.8	54.0	56.3	58.8	62.6

[1] Figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.

[2] Figures include all maintained schools (including CTCs and academies).

[3] Full GCSEs only have been included (full GCSEs, double awards, accredited international certificates and their predecessor iGCSEs and AS levels). Figures from 2006-09 exclude iGCSEs, 2010 figures include accredited iGCSEs.

[4] Including attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.

[5] Parliamentary constituency figures are based on the postcode of the school.

[6] Regional figures are based on the region of the local authority maintaining the school.

[7] England figures are the sum of all local authority figures.

Source:

National Pupil Database

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on changes to funding of sixth form education. [91609]

Mr Gibb: The Department has received 695 responses to its recent consultation on the 16-19 Funding Formula review. We are currently analysing these returns and plan to publish the outcomes from the consultation later in the spring.

Special Educational Needs

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding he plans to make available for children with special educational needs who will not be eligible for an Education, Health and Care Plan and are registered as School Action or School Action Plus. [90878]

Sarah Teather: Currently over £2 billion is delegated directly to schools to support children with SEN, with an additional £306 million allocated to schools to support individual pupils with statements. Our plans for changes to the statement system do not anticipate any changes to the total amounts available. We are, however, planning to ensure greater transparency about the support available for children with special educational needs with local authorities setting out a local offer of the support available in their area.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria were used to select the pathfinders to test the best ways of implementing the reforms in the Special Educational Needs Green Paper; what objectives he set for the pathfinders; and what mechanism the pathfinders will use to evaluate their effectiveness. [91927]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* The 20 special educational needs and disability pathfinders were selected according to the criteria published in the 'Invitation to Tender', which is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/b00191706/send-green-paper-pathfinders

Criteria included engagement of children, young people and parents, partnership arrangements, capacity to innovate and role of the voluntary and community sector. All pathfinders are working within existing statutory frameworks towards the following common objectives:

to develop a new birth to 25 assessment process and a single plan which bring together the education, health and social care services on which children and young people who are disabled or have SEN rely;

to explore how the voluntary and community sector could explore access to specialist expertise and introduce more independence to the process; and

to ensure the full engagement of children, young people and their parents and families.

The Department has appointed SQW to carry out an independent evaluation of the pathfinder programme. The Mott MacDonald pathfinder support team is working with pathfinders to help them develop their plans for measuring outcomes for children and families locally.

Special Educational Needs: Children

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how he plans to provide special educational needs assessments for young people who develop needs in their teens. [91925]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* Local pathfinders involving local authorities and their health partners are testing the best ways of achieving the reforms set out in the Green Paper, 'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability'. Those reforms include plans for a single, integrated assessment process and Education, Health and Care Plan for children and young people from birth to 25 who would, under the current system have a statement of special educational needs or a learning difficulty assessment.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on early intervention for children with special educational needs. [91926]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* A central theme of the recent Green Paper "Support and Aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability" is to ensure that children's support needs are recognised early and to enable professionals and parents to put the right help in place quickly, leading to the best possible outcomes for every child.

To ensure that teachers are well equipped to identify and meet young peoples' needs, we have committed to sharpen the focus on special educational needs within the standards for qualified teacher status; increase the number of initial teacher training placements in special schools; and, provide for scholarships, continuing professional development and training opportunities in SEN, including in specific impairments. This should equip teachers with the skills and knowledge to improve achievement for children with SEN and disabilities.

The proposed revision to the statement of special educational needs, the new Education, Health and Care plan, will bring together the range of support that a child or young person needs from education, health or social care services, within one plan involving all relevant agencies as well as the child and family. This should streamline the assessment process and help to ensure that the right package of support can be put in place as soon as a child's needs are identified.

In addition, there are a number of universal measures that will also be particularly beneficial to children with SEN. The revised Early Years Foundation Stage will include a new requirement for providing for earlier intervention for those children who need extra help, through the introduction of a progress check when children are age two.

Special Educational Needs: Children in Care

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many looked-after children with autism access education beyond the age of 16 in each English local authority. [92552]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number of looked after children with autism who access education beyond the age of 16 is not currently available. However the Department does collect information on the number of former care leavers now aged 19 but who were looked after when aged 16, who are in higher education. This information is published in table F1 of the Department's Statistical First Release, "Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2011". This publication can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001026/index.shtml

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91388]

Sarah Teather: Departmental business plans set out clear priorities across Government, including what we are putting in place to support the growth of big society, and we continue to report publicly on progress against these priorities at

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/transparency/srp/

Within the Department for Education this includes reporting progress on initiatives such as Free Schools, Sure Start children's centres, and joint work with the Cabinet Office on the National Citizen Service, as well as work to reduce bureaucratic burdens and ensure more and better information is available to service users.

In addition to the routine monitoring of programmes to measure progress the Department for Education carries out evaluation of programmes. For example, we have commissioned a major evaluation of Sure Start children's centres and we are managing the evaluation of the National Citizen Service with Cabinet Office which will be published at

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

in due course. Other DFE evaluations are published at

www.education.gov.uk

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding *(a)* Academy of York, *(b)* Bolton Lads and Girls Clubs, *(c)* Changematters, *(d)* Connexions Cumbria, *(e)* Engage4Life, *(f)* Envision, *(g)* Fylde Coast YMCA, *(h)* Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade, *(i)* Lincolnshire and Rutland EBP, *(j)* New College Nottingham, *(k)* Petroc, *(l)* Safe in Tees Valley, *(m)* Salford Foundation, *(n)* Sefton (CVS), *(o)* The Challenge Network, *(p)* The National Youth Agency, *(q)* V, *(r)* Young Devon/NCS South West, *(s)* Your Consortium Ltd, *(t)* Catch 22, *(u)* Future Foundations, *(v)* Global Action Plan, *(w)* Groundwork, *(x)* Luton Culture, *(y)* Oxfordshire CC, *(z)* Partnership Network, *(aa)* Transitions Plus, *(bb)* Football League Trust and *(cc)* Young Lives have received from his Department to run National Citizen Service pilots in 2012; and if he will make a statement. [92514]

Tim Loughton: Funding for NCS pilots in 2012 is provided by the Cabinet Office and from a wide range of sources. 2012 pilot providers have secured funding from a range of sources in addition to the Cabinet Office investment that includes business donations, in-kind support from providers themselves, private philanthropic donations, local fundraising and small contributions from participants and their families. This Department has not provided funding to support 2012 pilots.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance is given to Access to Work assessors and advisers on ensuring that *(a)* Access to Work processes are accessible to deaf blind people and *(b)* the support needs of deaf blind people are met through Access to Work. [91916]

Maria Miller: Access to Work advisers will have undergone disability awareness training to ensure that they are able to identify the communication needs of the customer. Assessors are contracted on the basis that their services are accessible to disabled people under the requirements of the Equalities Act.

Access to Work is a pan-disability programme which includes deaf blind customers. It provides practical advice and support to disabled people and their employers to help them overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability. Access to Work funds the support that is beyond the reasonable adjustments that employers make. It funds a variety of support for disabled people in employment, including support workers, travel to work, special aids and equipment and adaptations to equipment.

The Department is currently considering how to update the range of support it provides for disabled people in the light of the Sayce review recommendations and subsequent consultation.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average time elapsing between an initial application to Access to Work and the requested support being in place for *(a)* disabled and *(b)* deafblind people. [91943]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not routinely collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Child Poverty

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect of the implementation of the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill on levels of child poverty in each of the five years following its implementation. [91985]

Maria Miller: A key component of the Welfare Reform Bill is universal credit. The impact assessment published in October 2011 estimates that, on reasonable assumptions, the combined impact of increased take-up and entitlements will lift around 900,000 individuals out of poverty, including more than 350,000 children and around 550,000 working-age adults. The impact assessment also estimated that universal credit could reduce the number of workless households by as much as 300,000. Universal credit is expected to improve work incentives by allowing individuals to keep more of their income as they move into work, and by introducing a smoother and more transparent reduction of benefits when they increase their earnings.

Crisis Loans

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for social fund crisis loans there have been in each month since June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [91976]

Steve Webb: The following table shows the number of crisis loan applications made each month since June 2010.

	Number of crisis loan applications
June 2010	300,650
July 2010	292,630
August 2010	283,950
September 2010	299,540
October 2010	267,980
November 2010	278,670
December 2010	240,770
January 2011	302,540
February 2011	288,400
March 2011	301,100
April 2011	207,990
May 2011	240,670
June 2011	230,760
July 2011	220,800
August 2011	221,300
September 2011	221,740
October 2011	197,400
November 2011	196,400
December 2011	170,620

Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the social fund computer system.
2. Figures are for applications received, not for the number of people who made an application as some people made more than one application
3. The number of applications received has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Deloitte

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts his Department has awarded to Deloitte since May 2010; and what the *(a)* net and *(b)* individual monetary value was of each such contract. [92444]

Chris Grayling: In 2008-09 the Department spent £72.8 million on business consultancy services. This figure reduced to £18.2 million in 2010-11. This represents a total reduction of 76% compared to 2008-09 spending levels and we continue to drive value for money for the taxpayer. Spending has continued to fall during calendar year 2011 with the Department spending just £3.13 million on business consultancy.

Since May 2010 the following contracts have been awarded to Deloitte:

	£
CIT Organisation and Capability Transformation Options	1
Research into the Capacity of the Health Care Professional Market	48,670
Compensating People with Occupational Mesothelioma	25,616
Review of Transforming Letters Project	19,950
Digital Customer Total Experience Design	16,667
DWP Shared Services Delivery Model Options Appraisal	225,000
Total	335,904

Departmental Public Expenditure

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of change in his Department's spending on *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* families with children, *(c)* people with a disability and *(d)* all those living in Northern Ireland by 2015. [92416]

Maria Miller: These are devolved matters which are the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Minister for Social Development.

Disability: Allowances

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department makes available for people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy and their families. [91900]

Maria Miller: Individuals with Duchenne muscular dystrophy who are unable to work due to their condition are able to claim employment and support allowance. This benefit provides help to those capable of preparing for work to enable them to do so, as well as unconditional support to the most severely disabled.

Employment support to help disabled people, including those with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, is provided through Jobcentre Plus and the Work programme. Individuals may also qualify for specialist support through Work Choice, which helps individuals to move into supported employment, as well as Access to Work which provides support to individuals and their employers to meet adjustments they may require in the workplace or to access a job.

Those with Duchenne muscular dystrophy who have extra costs due to their disability may also qualify for disability living allowance. Individuals with a caring responsibility, such as family members of an individual with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, may qualify for carers allowance.

Employment Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department collects on the number of *(a)* job interviews undertaken and *(b)* work placements allocated under the sector based work academy scheme. [92102]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of claimants participating in the sector-based work academy scheme will be published later in the year.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department will develop a costed contingency for replacing failed prime contractors in the Work programme; and if he will make a statement. [92103]

Chris Grayling: The Department has developed robust contingency arrangements to manage any prime contractor failure, with performance being actively monitored to ensure early warning of a provider facing difficulty.

There is at least one alternative contractor in each contract package area (CPA) and providers are required to provide full geographical coverage of each CPA so could quickly provide support to claimants of the other provider. In addition, as the Work programme was procured through the Framework for the Provision of Employment Related Support Services there are additional providers available at short notice. Therefore the Department expects that any necessary alternative arrangements would be implemented at minimal cost.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions from what date he expects to apply automatic checks on Work programme prime providers' claims for outcome payments. [92104]

Chris Grayling: The Department plans to introduce these checks from April 2012.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the commitment in the Open Services White Paper on provision of user satisfaction data by public service providers, what plans he has for the publication of user satisfaction data in the Work programme. [92465]

Chris Grayling: Both the Jobcentre Plus and Pension, Disability and Carers Service surveys (which the Open Services White Paper refers to) are designed to elicit customer feedback on the services JCP or PDCS provides, not experiences of work programme provision. This information is used to inform continual improvement of services provided by JCP and PDCS.

The Department has commissioned an independent evaluation of the Work programme. This will include in-depth research with participants to understand their experiences of support and measure their progress into work. All the research will be published in the DWP research report series; the first report will be published later this year.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what maximum period is specified for the interval between contacts with a programme participant in contracts with Work programme providers. [92467]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not specify the contact intervals between participants and their Work programme provider.

Work programme providers are free to design support based on individual and local need and will be paid primarily for supporting claimants into employment and helping them stay there for longer than ever before. It is therefore in the interest of providers to ensure the frequency of contact is appropriate for the participant. On attachment to the Work programme, participants are given a summary of the service standards they can expect to receive as well as the complaints process if they are unhappy with the level of service and support the provider gives.

Employment Schemes: Disability

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to help disabled people into work. [92255]

Maria Miller: We are committed to ensuring that disabled people have the same employment opportunities and chances as everyone else to find and stay in work, regardless of their disability or benefit status.

As part of this commitment, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for a range of specialist employment provision specifically aimed at disabled people whose needs cannot be met through other DWP mainstream provision, such as the Work programme:

Work Choice, launched in October 2010, provides tailored support to help disabled people who face the most complex barriers to employment find and stay in work (including self-employment) and ultimately help them progress into unsupported employment, where it is appropriate for the individual. Work Choice is voluntary and available regardless of any benefits being claimed.

Access to Work provides practical advice and support to disabled people and their employers to help them overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability. Access to Work funds the support that is beyond the reasonable adjustments that employers make. Access to Work supported 35,840 disabled people to keep or get employment during 2010/11.

Remploy Employment Services deliver employment support for disabled people, including through the Work Choice programme and Remploy Enterprise Businesses—a network of 54 factories across the UK, providing supported employment to disabled people.

Residential training, delivered through nine residential training colleges, provides vocational training to unemployed disabled adults. Support is not restricted to particular types of disability although some colleges focus support on particular groups, for example visually impaired and hearing impaired.

In December 2010, the Government asked for an independent review to look at DWP employment support available for disabled people, specifically Remploy, residential training colleges and the Access to Work programme. This was led by Liz Sayce, the chief executive of the disability organisation RADAR.

Liz Sayce published her report, 'Getting in, staying in and getting on', on 9 June 2011. The Government's response and a separate public consultation was launched on 11 July 2011. I welcome the central theme of the review, that resources for supporting disabled people into employment should be focused on disabled people themselves rather than on specific institutions. The consultation closed on 17 October 2011 and the Government will publish a summary of responses received and a statement on future policy as soon as practicably possible.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92119]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions does not publish its response to every request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act, not least because the volumes are too large and in any event many are quite routine.

However, the Department regularly publishes those responses where the information released is of wider public interest. Officials endeavour to publish such releases as soon as possible and they can be found at the following address:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/freedom%2Dof%2Dinformation/information%2Dreleased%2Dunder/

In addition, all the Department's responses to the What Do They Know website are automatically published on that website. This constitutes around 20% of the Department's freedom of information responses.

The What Do They Know website can be found at the following address:

http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/dwp

Funeral Payments

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for grants to cover funeral costs there have been in each month since June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [91975]

Steve Webb: The following table shows the number of funeral payment claims made each month since June 2010.

	Number of funeral payment claims
June 2010	5,760
July 2010	5,400
August 2010	4,720
September 2010	5,470
October 2010	4,880
November 2010	6,140
December 2010	4,100
January 2011	6,900
February 2011	6,850
March 2011	7,470
April 2011	5,220
May 2011	6,100
June 2011	5,840
July 2011	5,330
August 2011	5,340
September 2011	5,850

	Number of funeral payment claims
October 2011	5,350
November 2011	5,730
December 2011	5,020

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.

2. The number of claims received has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Health and Safety Legislation Review

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the finding of the Löfstedt Review of Health and Safety Legislation that there is no case for radically altering current health and safety legislation. [92464]

Chris Grayling: Professor Löfstedt's independent review of health and safety legislation found that the existing regulatory framework was broadly right but recommended revoking, amending or clarifying those regulations that place unnecessary burdens on business without contributing to a healthier and safer workplace.

The Government accepted Professor Löfstedt's recommendations and are committed to their timely implementation to ensure the health and safety system is consistent, proportionate, and easy to understand. The Health and Safety Executive has launched a consultation on the revocation of the first seven statutory instruments that have been identified as obsolete or that have been overtaken by more recent regulations. The consultation, which closes on 12 March 2012, can be found on the HSE website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/live.htm

Regular progress updates on the implementation of the Löfstedt recommendations will be published on the DWP website.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to the letter from Mark Gilbert on the treatment of his wife Susan Gilbert in her employment by Sainsbury plc. [90880]

Chris Grayling: Mr Gilbert wrote to the Minister for Disabled People, my hon. Friend the Member for Basingstoke (Maria Miller), on 10 August 2011. An official replied to Mr Gilbert on 19 August 2011 on behalf of the Minister.

Pensions Regulator

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to increase the efficiency of *(a)* the Pensions Regulator and *(b)* the Pensions Regulator complaints procedure. [92254]

Steve Webb: The Pensions Regulator was set up in April 2005 with a new proactive and risk-based regulatory approach, placing greater emphasis on identifying and tackling real risks to members' benefits. The delivery of the daily business is managed by the chief executive, reporting to the Board of the Pensions Regulator. There is an ongoing assessment of the regulator's performance at both ministerial and official level. Following a request from Ministers in line with DWPs other non-departmental public bodies the Pensions Regulator have submitted proposals to reduce their operating costs over the spending review period which will be achieved by a number of initiatives to increase efficiencies in the Pension's Regulator's business while maintaining or improving standards of service delivery. The Pensions Regulator publishes a business plan annually and submits an annual report on all its activities to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, which is then laid before Parliament.

The Pensions Regulator recently reviewed its internal complaints process and concluded that it could be streamlined from a three stage to a two stage process. The first stage is an investigation and response by the Corporate Secretary and the second is a review by the Chair if the complainant remains dissatisfied.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has asked the Pensions Regulator to make of the level of hidden charges associated with pension and savings funds; and if he will make a statement. [92327]

Steve Webb: I am strongly committed to clarity on costs and charges so there is increased trust in pension provision and scheme members do not incur unnecessary costs. In support of this, the Pensions Regulator encourages the industry to be open and transparent about charges so that people can make informed choices about their pension provision. The Regulator has challenged the pensions industry to develop a way to disclose charges so that employers and advisors can be clear about value when selecting a scheme. This is part of the wider approach, which aims to ensure that members of all workplace Defined Contribution schemes secure as good an outcome as possible.

Poverty: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* families and *(c)* children who will be living in poverty in Northern Ireland in 2015. [92413]

Maria Miller: These are devolved matters which are the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Minister for Social Development.

Social Fund

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local authorities have committed themselves to setting up a replacement for his Department's social fund. [92076]

Steve Webb: Local authorities are not replacing the social fund. Payments for maternity, heating and funeral expenses will continue while some discretionary payments will be replaced by better targeted local provision in England and help provided under arrangements made by the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

When funding is distributed it will be accompanied by a settlement letter setting out what funding is to be used for, its underlying principles and the outcome which should be achieved.

We are working closely with the local authorities and their representative organisations to support them in preparing to deliver the new local provision and I am unaware of any that is not committing to providing it.

Additionally, universal credit will provide a better service with payments on account, supporting many people in need of short and longer term credit facilities.

Social Fund: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for which aspects of the Social Fund he is planning to transfer responsibility to Liverpool city council. [92571]

Steve Webb: Liverpool city council will not become responsible for any elements of the Social Fund.

National payments for maternity, heating and funeral expenses will continue while some discretionary payments will be replaced by better targeted local provision through local authorities in England and arrangements made by the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

When the funding is distributed it will be accompanied by a settlement letter setting out what the funding is to be used for, its underlying principles and the outcome which should be achieved. It will say that the funding is to concentrate resources on those facing greatest difficulty in managing their income, and to enable a more flexible response to unavoidable need. The letter will make explicit that the funding is to provide a replacement provision for community care grants and general living expenses crisis loans.

We are working closely with local authorities and their representative organisations to support them in preparing to deliver the new local provision.

Additionally, universal credit will provide a better service of payments on account, supporting many people in need of short and longer term credit facilities.

Social Security Benefits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what calculations his Department made in reaching its estimate that a working household would have to earn £35,000 per year for its net income to exceed the maximum payable under the proposed benefit cap and £50,000 per year if child benefit was excluded from the cap. [92466]

Chris Grayling: An employee earning £35,000 per annum, gross of income tax and national insurance contributions (NICs), would take home £26,000 per annum after deducting income tax and NICs. This calculation is based on the 2011-12 rates and thresholds for income tax and NICs, which can be found at the following URLs:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/incometax/index.htm

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ni/index.htm

If child benefit was excluded, then the gross earnings of someone in work would need to be much higher in order to have the equivalent net income from work as someone on benefits. The exact equivalent in gross earnings would depend on the number of children in the family. For example, a family with four children would receive nearly £30,000 in benefits which is the equivalent to £40,000 in earnings and a family with 10 children or more would receive over £33,000 in benefits which is the equivalent to gross earnings of towards £50,000 a year.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of claimants who will be affected by the benefit cap in each parliamentary constituency. [92607]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available by parliamentary constituency.

Social Security Benefits: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley and *(c)* London received benefits in excess of the value of his proposed benefits cap in the latest period for which figures are available. [92513]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available by parliamentary constituency.

The number of households estimated to be affected in the London borough of Bexley is 300. The number of households estimated to be affected in all London boroughs is 35,600.

The figures relate to the financial year 2013-14 when the cap is due to be implemented, and are on the same basis as the impact assessment which was published on 23 January 2012.

The impact assessment assumes that the situation of these households will go unchanged, and they will not take any steps to either work enough hours to qualify for working tax credit, renegotiate their rent in situ, or find alternative accommodation. In all cases the Department is working to support households through this transition, using existing provision through Jobcentre Plus and the Work programme to move as many into work as possible.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral answer of 23 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 9, on universal credit, whether his Department expects to be able to access real-time PAYE information for all employers by the launch of universal credit in October 2013. [92105]

Chris Grayling: DWP is working closely with HMRC on the availability of RTI data. HMRC have plans in place to bring all employers under RTI by October 2013. HMRC assure us they are on track to meet this target.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: West Midlands

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized businesses have taken on apprentices in *(a)* Worcester constituency, *(b)* Worcestershire and *(c)* the west midlands in the last year. [92160]

Mr Hayes: Information is not available on the size of the employer for apprentices below national level.

Small businesses are the cornerstone of our economy and high quality training opportunities like apprenticeships are key to supporting their growth and success. We recognise this and, in last November's Education and Skills Growth Review, we announced a range of measures to improve small and medium-sized enterprises' (SMEs) access to apprenticeships, including speeding up the process to advertise and recruit an apprentice; removing health and safety requirements that go beyond regulatory requirements; and enabling micro companies to build extra modules into apprenticeships.

The Government are aware that small businesses place great value on apprenticeships. Indeed, the National Employer Skills Survey suggests that SMEs employ proportionately more apprentices than larger employers.

Biotechnology

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of opportunities arising from industrial biotechnology in the development of a low carbon economy. [91761]

Mr Willetts: The Government recognise that industrial biotechnology has an increasingly important role to play in growing a green economy.

The Industrial Biotechnology Leadership Forum (IBLF) works across the research community, through our innovation centres including the Technology Strategy Board and our newly established Catapult centres to realise the potential for industrial biotechnology among UK businesses.

Through the IBLF, the Department seeks to ensure that the UK will become a leading centre of competence in fine and speciality chemicals delivered via IB processes, and that there will be an increased uptake of biocatalysis and fermentation in the existing UK chemical industry.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Glasgow South West constituency have received support from his Department since 2010. [91673]

Mr Prisk: The total number of enterprises that have received assistance from BIS schemes is not available. However, where information is held at a constituency level on the number of such businesses supported by BIS, this is set out in the following table:

Product	*Glasgow South West*	*Comment*
Access to finance	14 companies of £1.75 million	Drawn down loans post 2010 for Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme. In Scotland for the same period there were 567 loans of £82.56 million.
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	One company supported	—
Collaborative R&D	Three companies supported	—
Trade services support	16 companies	These were services offered by UKTI in calendar year 2011.

For other schemes such as BIS's Knowledge Transfer Networks, information is only available at a national level and not at constituency level.

Business: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Government-owned empty or under-utilised buildings in Scotland will be made available to small businesses; and where such buildings are located. [92616]

Mr Prisk: Enterprise policy is a devolved responsibility. The announcement by the Prime Minister on making Government-owned empty or under-utilised buildings available to small business in the first instance pertains to property in England. However, the Government will be speaking to all of the devolved Administrations to explore the possibilities of extending this initiative across the whole of the UK.

Community Investment Tax Relief

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 173W, on community development tax relief, what the names of the community development finance institutions are; if he will publish details of their financial holdings; and what level of tax relief each has benefited from since their accreditation. [92508]

Mr Prisk: Currently there are 24 community development finance institutions (CDFIs) accredited under community investment tax relief (CITR). The names of the accredited organisations are as follows:

Aston Reinvestment Trust (ART)
BIG Issue Invest Limited
Black Country Reinvestment Society (BCRS)
Bristol Enterprise Development Fund
Bristol Together
Business Finance Solutions
London Business Loans
CDFA Progress Fund
Charity Bank
Co-operative and Community Finance
Coventry and Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust
Cumbria Asset Reinvestment Trust
First Enterprise Business Agency

Fredericks Foundation
Foundation East
London Rebuilding Society (LRS)
Hull Business Development Fund
London Development Agency
Northern Pinetree Trust
Saltend Community Development Company Ltd
Social Investment Scotland
The Social Enterprise Loan Fund (TSELF)
Street North East
Triodos Bank

The accredited CDFIs are independent financial institutions. BIS do not hold details of their financial holdings.

Investors in CDFIs receive a tax relief for their investments (the CDFIs themselves do not receive the relief). Currently around £84 million of investment has been raised under CITR since 2002. BIS do not publish details of CITR raised by individual CDFIs. As CITR may be only one method a CDFI uses to raise capital, this may create a false impression of their financial health.

Company Accounts

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to exempt micro-entities from the requirement to file accounts. [92217]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to reducing the burdens faced by all businesses, and small businesses in particular, as part of our aim to make the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business. We have achieved agreement from EU Ministers to exempt micro-businesses from certain EU accounting rules and expect a directive introducing these exemptions to be agreed shortly. We will seek to introduce these flexibilities into the UK's regulations at the earliest opportunity and so greatly reduce the requirement for micro-entities to publish and file accounts.

Construction Industry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the construction industry on *(a)* skills and training and *(b)* the role of national agreements in maintaining levels of skills in the construction industry. [92419]

Mr Prisk: As the Minister for business and enterprise I have regular discussions with the construction industry on skills and training. In October 2011 I met with the chairman of Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and chief executive officer of Construction Skills to discuss apprenticeships. A further meeting with Construction Skills is scheduled for February 2012.

Employers and employees are best placed to assess skills and training needs in national agreements.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what construction industry-related visits he has undertaken since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [92420]

Mr Prisk: As the Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, I regularly visit a wide range of organisations including those in the construction sector.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the level of skill retention in the construction sector. [92421]

Mr Prisk: The UK Commission for Employment and Skills has produced a National Skills Audit report (Skills for Jobs: Today and Tomorrow) that provides detailed intelligence about the operation and structure of the labour market, including assessments of specific sectors such as construction. In addition Labour Market Intelligence reports are produced by Construction Skills through the Construction Skills Network (CSN). CSN is a unique method of establishing the future skills and training requirements of the UK construction industry and provides a consensus view of the current and future skills training needs.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will meet representatives from construction industry trade unions to discuss the effects of recent changes in training requirements by some employers; and if he will make a statement. [92422]

Mr Prisk: There is trade union representation on the boards of the sector skills councils, which discuss changes to training and skills requirements for each industry. Discussions on specific changes by some employers to training requirements in the construction industry should first be addressed by the trade unions to the Construction Skillsboard. Ministers do meet with trade union representatives from the sector. In December 2011 the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, my hon. Friend the Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr Hayes), met with Unite to discuss new national agreements for construction workers.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of future prospects for the construction industry. [92423]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not forecast trends in construction output. We do monitor estimates of future growth that are produced by others, particularly Experian and the Construction Products Association (CPA).

In its latest forecast, the CPA forecasts that the construction sector will contract by 5.2% in 2012. The sector is expected to return to growth in 2013 (0.4%) before accelerating to 3.8% in 2014 and 4.6% in 2015.

Experian's winter forecast is that output will fall by 5.6% this year. Recovery is forecast in 2013 (1.1%), with growth strengthening to 4.7% in 2014. Experian do not produce forecasts beyond 2014.

Construction Skills Network (CSN) use Experian forecasts to look at implications for skills/employment. CSN's most recent report, published in January 2012, predicts that construction employment will decline in 2012 and 2013, but will start growing again in 2014 to reach just under 2.6 million by 2016.

Copyright: Education

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* economic advice and *(b)* other evidence he took account of before publication of his Department's impact assessment BIS0317 on 2 December 2011 entitled Extending Copyright Exceptions for Educational Use. [91677]

Mr Davey: Impact assessment BIS0317 was prepared with the advice of Government economists, using publicly available data. It is an initial assessment of potential costs and benefits of different policy options. We hope that interested parties will respond to the Government's copyright consultation, which runs from 14 December to 21 March 2012, and invite them to submit economic evidence to help inform our final impact assessment. The consultation and the accompanying initial impact assessments are available in the Libraries of the House and on the website of the Intellectual Property Office.

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what organisations and individuals were consulted before publication of his Department's impact assessment BIS0317 on 2 December 2011 entitled Extending Copyright Exceptions for Educational Use. [91678]

Mr Davey: Impact assessment BIS0317 was prepared using publicly available data, including evidence provided to the Intellectual Property Office by interested parties. An initial impact assessment such as this provides a starting point for consultation and discussion with stakeholders by setting out the potential impacts on different groups arising from the options under consideration. The Government's copyright consultation, which runs from 14 December to 21 March 2012, will provide an opportunity for interested organisations and individuals to contribute evidence and data to help inform more robust assessment and analysis of the options under consideration.

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information is held by the Intellectual Property Office regarding blanket licences offered by the Educational Licensing Agency to local authorities for the purposes of licensing schools in their area; and how licence fees monies are used for the benefit of performers and other rights owners. [91679]

Mr Davey: The Intellectual Property Office holds no such information. The collecting societies which offer such licences are privately run commercial entities, and are not subject to direct Government regulation in the discharge of these functions. The uses to which collected monies are put are a matter for thesocieties concerned, and their members.

Deloitte

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contracts his Department has awarded to Delotte since May 2010; and what the *(a)* net and *(b)* individual monetary value was of each such contract. [92442]

Mr Davey: Central records show that the Department has made 27 payments to Deloitte since May 2010 totalling a net value of £3,252,322.77.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* posting his Department's letter on England's National Apprenticeship Week to hon. Members representing seats in Scotland and *(b)* printing those letters; and if he will make a statement. [92685]

Mr Hayes: Letters on England's National Apprenticeship Week were taken to the House of Commons and distributed to all hon. Members. This incurred minimal cost.

The cost of printing letters for the 59 Scottish Members was 19 pence.

Education: Ex-servicemen

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely cost to his Department of tuition fees incurred by service leavers in cases where fees exceed the sums provided by the Enhanced Learning Credits scheme in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [92559]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills expects to provide funding to the scheme of around £700,000 in 2011-12, and around £3.3 million in 2012-13. The Department is meeting in full the additional cost to the scheme of the increase in tuition fees in September 2012, and this accounts for the rise in costs in 2012-13.

The Department's contribution to the scheme for 2013-14 and 2014-15 is still to be determined.

Exports

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which countries ranked the highest in the 20% rise in UK exports of manufactured goods to non-EU markets. [90972]

Mr Prisk: The table shows that UK exports of goods to non-EU markets increased by £20 billion (20%) between 2009 and 2010, as referred to in the question.

The countries to see the largest increase in UK exports between 2009 and 2010 were the USA (up £3.9 billion or 12%), China (up £2.1 billion or 41%), Switzerland (up £1.3 billion or 35%), Russia (up £1.2 billion or 51%), and India (up £1.1 billion or 37%).

More recent data also shows that UK exports of goods in January to November 2011 (the latest available) increased by £15 billion (14%) on January to November 2010.

The countries to see the largest increase in UK exports between January to November 2010 and January to November 2011 were India (up £1.4 billion or 40%), China (up £1.4 billion or 21%), Russia (up £1.2 billion or 39%), USA (up £1.2 billion or 3%), and Australia (up £0.9 billion or 32%).

The table shows that apart from a dip in 2009, non-EU exports of goods have generally increased in value over recent years. Almost half of all UK goods exports are to non-EU markets.

Data for the calendar year 2011 will be published by HMRC in February 2012.

UK exports of goods with the EU and non-EU, 2005-10

	EU		*Non-EU*	
	£ billion	*Percentage change*	*£ billion*	*Percentage change*
2005	121	—	91	—
2006	153	26	92	1
2007	127	-17	93	2
2008	141	11	108	16
2009	124	-12	101	-6
2010	142	14	121	20

Note:
Figures for the EU do not include MTIC or late response estimates.
Source:
HMRC, Overseas Trade Statistics

Further Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of adults in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland who will complete Access to Higher Education courses in each of the next 10 years. [90600]

Mr Willetts: Education and training is a devolved matter and we are not responsible for Access to HE courses undertaken elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

Estimates of the number of adult learners in further education colleges and training organisations in England are made for those periods for which the available level of funding is known. The Skills Investment Statement 2011-14, published in December 2011, sets out indicative learner numbers and learners provision mix up to and including the 2013/14 academic year. This is available at the following link:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/11-1374-skills-investment-statement-2011-2014

These illustrative numbers are not broken down by course type, as colleges and training organisations have the freedom to provide courses which respond to demand from individuals and employers.

Internships

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average duration is of placements classified as internships advertised on the Graduate Talent Pool website hosted by his Department. [91681]

Mr Willetts: Of the vacancies advertised on the Graduate Talent Pool website on 23 January 2011, 94% specified the length of the internships. 77% of these specified a period of between four and six months, 11.5% a period of two to three months, 9.7% a period of seven to 12 months, and 1.3% less than a month.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average wage is paid by jobs advertised on the Graduate Talent Pool website hosted by his Department. [91683]

Mr Willetts: This Department does not hold this information. The actual rate of remuneration is agreed between the graduate intern and employer. The Government are clear that those who are entitled to the minimum wage should receive it, and the Graduate Talent Pool website directs employers to comprehensive information about their obligation to comply with national minimum wage legislation.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of internships advertised on the Graduate Talent Pool website hosted by his Department are unpaid. [91684]

Mr Willetts: During December 2011, 2,259 internships vacancies were advertised on the Graduate Talent Pool. Of these, just under a quarter (or 600) were unpaid. More than 500 of these unpaid vacancies were from charitable organisations.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the unpaid internships scheme advertised on the Graduate Talent Pool website hosted by his Department. [91685]

Mr Willetts: We want to make as many opportunities as possible available to talented young people from all backgrounds and avoid closing down potentially valuable options, for example where the intern is acting as a volunteer. For this reason we do not rule out unpaid internships on the Graduate Talent Pool, but guidance on the website and the vacancy quality assurance process together ensure that no employer is left in any doubt about his or her obligation to comply with national minimum wage legislation.

Groceries Code Adjudicator

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the introduction of a groceries code adjudicator; and if he will make a statement. [92659]

Mr Davey: I have received letters from a wide range of individual companies, industry bodies and campaigning groups on the introduction of a Groceries Code Adjudicator, as well as Members from both Houses. Additionally, I and my officials have met a range of key stakeholders including the British Retail Consortium, the Federation for Small Businesses, the Food and Drink Federation and the National Farmers' Union.

High Street Review

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration the Independent Review of the High Street gave to the merits of referring the matter of the level of competition between supermarkets and small independent retailers to the Competition Commission. [91793]

Mr Davey: The Independent Review of the High Street by Mary Portas considered a wide range of issues facing high streets and town centres. The published report contained those issues which Ms Portas considered most important. The report made 28 recommendations, to which the Government intend to respond to in the spring. However, she made no recommendations regarding the independent competition authorities, or Government intervention in the retail market.

Insolvency

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 410W, on insolvency, when statistics of personal insolvencies including bankruptcies, individual voluntary arrangements and debt relief orders in each parliamentary constituency for 2010 will be published. [92641]

Mr Davey: Official statistics for individual constituencies are not published by the Insolvency Service but are available upon request following publication of the higher level figures.

The Insolvency Service publishes individual insolvencies broken down by Government office region, county, unitary authority and county district within England and Wales. The most recent published information, to 2009, is available at:

http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/regionalstatisticsmenu.htm

Similar figures for 2010 and 2011 will be published in the first half of 2012. It is not yet possible to provide the precise date for publication of this information, but it will be announced on the Insolvency Service website four weeks prior to publication.

One North East

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the gross value-added economic output generated by regional economic investment by One North East in each of the last five years. [92630]

Mr Prisk: We do not have direct information on the increase in gross value added generated by regional economic investment by One North East (ONE).

However, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers estimates, on average each pound spent by the Regional Development Agencies led to £4.5 worth of gross value-added. Between 2006 and 2010 ONE spent around £1.2 billion, which would suggest around £5.5 billion worth of gross value-added.

Postgraduate Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support organisations to promote the economic and social value of postgraduate education in the UK. [92198]

Mr Willetts: With funding from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, the Research Councils support around 19,000 doctoral students and the Higher Education Funding Council for England provides support for the costs incurred by higher education institutions in supervising postgraduate research students.

Over 60% of the 4,500 Research Council doctoral graduates produced each year will move from higher education, taking their skills into the wider economy. The Research Councils seek to ensure that this supply of highly trained people meets the need for specialist postgraduate research skills in a wide range of employment sectors. For example, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council provide funding for industrial doctorate centres. Students at these centres undertake a PhD level research project while spending about 75% of their time working directly with a company.

Technology and Innovation Centres

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many projects the High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre is sponsoring. [92242]

Mr Willetts: The High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre does not itself sponsor projects. The majority of the centre's core funding is used to purchase and install new, cutting edge equipment in the Catapult, and to carry out projects using this and existing equipment to develop its knowledge and skills to support the needs of business.

The centre will participate in collaborative research and development projects which it will need to win competitively through applying to the Technology Strategy Board, European Union or other funding programmes. The centre will also undertake contract research on behalf of business.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funds the Technology Strategy Board has allocated to the Cell Therapy Catapult Centre. [92243]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board is in the process of establishing the Cell Therapy Catapult Centre. As yet, no funds have been invested. We expect the funding for each Catapult centre, with the exception of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult, will be in the region of £10 million per annum.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether a leadership team has been appointed for the Cell Therapy Catapult Centre. [92244]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board is actively recruiting the leadership team for the Cell Therapy Catapult Centre. No appointments have been made yet.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Cell Therapy Catapult Centre will be operational. [92245]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board is currently working to establish the Cell Therapy Catapult Centre and plan to have the centre operational in the next six months, dependent upon the appointment of the leadership team. Once operational, we would expect the centre to have a period where it is increasing activity to establish full capability.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to announce the location of the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult Centre. [92246]

Mr Willetts: We expect to make an announcement of the winning consortium and location soon.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the location of the Satellite Applications Catapult will be announced. [92637]

Mr Willetts: The intention to establish a new Catapult centre in Satellite Applications was announced on 4 January 2012. The Catapult will provide in-orbit test facilities allowing innovative UK organisations the opportunity to demonstrate new satellite technologies leading to a new generation of satellite-based products and services.

The decision on the location of the centre will be taken with the selected organisation or organisations that will run the centre. The Technology Strategy Board issued further information on the process for selecting the organisation or organisations on 26 January 2012. The outcome of that process will be known in the summer, with the Catapult expected to be open for business in autumn 2012.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who the members are of the Technology and Innovation Centre Catapult Centre independent oversight committee; when and where the committee meets; and what remuneration its members receive. [92638]

Mr Willetts: The members of the Oversight Committee are as follows:

Dr David Grant, Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff University—Chair

Dame Sue Ion, Non-Executive Board Member, Health & Safety Laboratory

Trudy Norris-Grey, MD—Strategy, Portfolio & Transformation, BT plc

Philip Rutnam, Director-General—Business Group, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Dr Mike Short, Vice President—Public Affairs, Telefonica Europe and President of the Institution of Engineering and Technology

Martin Temple, Chairman, EEF

Steve Visscher, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer, BBSRC

David Way, Director of Knowledge Exchange & Special Projects, Technology Strategy Board

The Committee meets on a quarterly basis. Two meetings have so far been held which took place in the Technology Strategy Board offices in Swindon and at the National Composites Centre (NCC) in Bristol, with the next meeting to be held at the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) at Coventry. The NCC and MTC are both consortium members of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult.

The members of the Committee do not receive remuneration for their involvement. The Technology Strategy Board does however pay for reasonable travel and subsistence costs incurred.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what services to business are available from existing Catapult centres; how businesses can access them; and what payment is required. [92639]

Mr Willetts: Businesses can work with the High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre in a number of ways. They can partner with the centre in collaborative research and development projects where the centre provides the equipment, knowledge and expertise needed to support the project, with the business contributing its expertise. These projects may arise from competitions run by the European Union, such as Framework 7, and from the Technology Strategy Board.

Businesses can also contract direct with the centre to do research on their behalf or to access specialist equipment which the company is unlikely to be able to afford otherwise. In this case it is a private arrangement and the business would pay a commercial rate for the services they use. The Catapult centres will also provide programmes tailored to meet the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to promote international awareness of Catapult centres. [92640]

Mr Willetts: There has already been considerable international interest in the Catapult centres from a wide range of countries. The Technology Strategy Board is working with United Kingdom Trade and Investment (UKTI) and the Science and Innovation Network to raise awareness of the Catapult centres internationally and is looking to establish links between the Catapult centres and similar centres based in other countries. The High Value Manufacturing Catapult already has good international outreach, building on the experience of the seven partner centres of the Catapult.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Catapult centres there will be by the end of 2012. [91928]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* As stated in the strategy and implementation plan published by the Technology Strategy Board in May 2011, we intend to have all the Catapults operational, with funding in place, by March 2013.

The High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre is operational. The Cell Therapy and Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult centres were announced last year; the Technology Strategy Board is currently working to establish these centres and plan to have them operational in the next six months. The Satellite Applications Catapult Centre was announced on 4 January and we expect to make further announcements shortly.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Technology Strategy Board has provided to the High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre; and what the names are of the entities receiving the funding. [91929]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* We are investing £140 million over six years in the High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre.

The agreed core grant funding for the centre for financial year 2011/12 is £21 million. To date, the Technology Strategy Board has provided the centre with funding of £4.6 million since the centre started formal operations in October 2011. In addition a grant for working capital of £1 million will be paid to the centre.

The High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre consists of a core organisation (a company limited by guarantee set-up especially for the Catapult) and seven member centres. All Technology Strategy Board funding will be paid to this core organisation.

The seven members are:

Advanced Forming Research Centre (University of Strathclyde)

Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (University of Sheffield)

Centre for Process Innovation Ltd, Wilton and Sedgefield

Manufacturing Technology Centre Ltd, Coventry

Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, (University of Sheffield)

Warwick Manufacturing Group, Coventry, (University of Warwick)

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what private sector funds the High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre has attracted. [91930]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* The Catapult centres will work on a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3, model, with broadly equal funding from the core Technology Strategy Board grant, from research and development grants collaboratively with business won competitively by the Catapult, and from contract research funded fully by business. Hence, when fully established, we would expect approximately 50% of the Catapult funding to come from the private sector.

For the six month period from October 2011 to March 2012, the Catapult centre is projecting commercial income of £10 million (plus a further £10 million of in-kind contributions from industrial clients). Given that a number of the member centres are in the start-up phase, this is encouraging.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff work for the High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre; and at what grades. [91931]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* In total the seven member centres of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult employ 625 staff, although this is changing as the new centres recruit. The central core organisation, the HVM Catapult Company Ltd by guarantee, currently has no employees, although the Technology Strategy Board is actively recruiting and functions are being carried out by the staff from the member organisations. The Catapult centre and members do not use public sector grades.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* operating and *(b)* capital budget is of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre. [91932]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* The budget of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre for the six month period of operation during financial year 2011/12 is as follows:

£21 million Catapult core grant from Technology Strategy Board.

The total budget income for the Catapult centre is approximately £25 million operating and £25 million capital. This covers all aspects of operation including core grant, commercial contracts and funding from other sources including the European regional development fund, regional growth fund, EU Framework 7 and Technology Strategy Board collaborative R&D grants.

The Technology Strategy Board and the High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre are in the process of finalising the business plan and budget for the next five years.

UK Trade & Investment

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effects on service delivery of the reduction in international trade advisers at UK Trade & Investment since 2011. [91235]

Mr Prisk: The reduction in the number of international trade advisers (ITAs) was due largely to a reduced level of funding. UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), continues to make efficiencies in running its business and, since the start of the 2011/12 financial year, it recycled savings into the front line and enabled its delivery partners to recruit ITAs. This is starting to make good the shortfall following the Government's spending review. UKTI is seeking to achieve more with less through the intelligent use of networks to multiply its impact and by working in partnership with organisations who present a complementary offer to exporters such as banks and accountants.

In addition, in the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), autumn statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report,* columns 799-810, announced additional funding for UKTI. Some of that money will be used to recruit new ITAs to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and mid-size businesses in developing their export capability.

CABINET OFFICE

Alix Partners

Mrs Moon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many former civil servants have applied to the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments to take up an appointment to Alix Partners in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [92007]

Mr Maude: All civil servants are subject to the provisions of the business appointments rules as set out in the Civil Service Management Code. The independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments provides advice to the most senior civil servants. The Committee's advice is published on its website once the appointment is taken up or announced. The Committee's website can be accessed at:

http://acoba.independent.gov.uk

Individual Departments handle applications from other civil servants and this information is not held centrally.

Children: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr David Davis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children with *(a)* two parents working, *(b)* one parent working and *(c)* no parents working there were in (i) Haltemprice and Howden constituency, (ii) East Yorkshire and (iii) the Humberside region in the latest period for which figures are available. [92175]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what is the total number of children with a) two parents working, b) one parent working and c) no parents working in i) Haltemprice and Howden constituency, ii) East Yorkshire and iii) the Humberside region in the latest period for which figures are available. 92175.

The table shows estimates for the period of January to December 2010 and are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Please note that it is not possible to provide reliable estimates for the parliamentary constituency Haltemprice and Howden because the sample sizes are not sufficiently large. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results.

Number of children[1, 2] with one, both or no parents working in Haltemprice and Howden constituencies, east Yorkshire and Humberside region, January to December 2010, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	(a) Both parents working	*(b) One parent working*	*(c) No parents working*
East Yorkshire	43	13	[3]5
The Humberside[4]	84	53	34

[1] Children aged 0 to 15.

[2] The average is the total number of children aged 0 to 15 divided by the total number of families with children aged 0 to 15.

[3] Estimates have RSE>20 and are not considered reliable for practical purposes.

[4] The estimates for the Humberside region is an aggregate of responses from the following local authorities: East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire.

Note:

Parents of the children in this analysis live in the same household, therefore children of lone-parent families can only be accounted for in columns (b) and (c).

Source:

ONS Annual Population Survey.

Co-operatives: Harrogate and Knaresborough

Andrew Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what support prospective mutuals in Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency can access from his Department. [91980]

Mr Maude: Public sector staff who want to take control of the services they run can access support through the Mutuals Support Programme. The programme is made up of the following elements:

The Mutuals Information Service website

http://mutuals.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

gives information on the process of becoming a mutual, case studies, high-level guidance and access to a resource library. There will also be an online forum launched shortly.

There is a dedicated hotline on 0845 5390543 which will assess business needs of fledgling mutuals and provide appropriate expert advice, guidance and support.

The most promising fledgling mutuals will be eligible for funds from the Mutuals Support Programme. This is a fund of more than £10 million, administered by the Cabinet Office, used to fund contracts for support in the form of business and professional services (such as HR, legal, financial, tax and business planning) to groups of staff or existing mutual organisations in the public sector, but will not give cash grants. Referrals to these funds will come from the hotline.

Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [87966]

Mr Maude: The information requested in not held in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

A monthly breakdown of the Department's expenditure can be found on:

www.data.gov.uk

Electoral Register

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were *(a)* registered to vote in each parliamentary constituency in December 2010 and *(b)* enumerated at the March 2011 Census as qualified to register to vote. [92686]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were (a) registered to vote in each parliamentary constituency in December 2010 and (b) enumerated at the March 2011 Census as qualified to register to vote (92686)

The attached table shows the number of people who were registered to vote in parliamentary elections by constituency on 1 December 2010. A copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Population estimates from the 2011 Census will not be published until later this summer. These will be estimates of the resident population by local authority area and age and sex. Information on nationality and citizenship that could be used to help assess eligibility to vote will be published later in 2012.

Empty Properties: Essex

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what Government-owned properties in Essex are currently empty or underused. [92050]

Mr Hurd: The Government's electronic Property Information Mapping Service (e-PIMS) identifies seven marketable vacant space records within the county of Essex. In addition there are two surplus land records which include buildings. Details are identified within the Excel spreadsheet which will be placed in the Library of the House. The Government are looking at how best to address these surpluses.

e-PIMS does hot currently explicitly record underused space.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his office publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92128]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office including the Prime Minister's Office publishes on its website responses to requests for information where there is a substantial public, rather than private, interest. Details are published on the Freedom of Information pages of the website on each occasion. No information is available about the time taken between responding to a request and the information becoming available on the website but the aim is to do so as quickly as possible.

There is no change in practice from the previous Administration.

Government Departments: Computers

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average cost is of a laptop purchased by the Government. [90560]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* Information required is not held in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However the average price paid for laptop computers bought through Government Procurement Service's framework agreements during financial year 2010-11 is £558.91.

Departments publish the average cost of their desktop IT in the Quarterly Data Summary.

Government Departments: Contracts

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how the performance of services outsourced to private companies is assessed in different Government Departments; and what guidelines his Department issues on such assessment. [90033]

Mr Maude: The responsibility for contract management, including the key performance indicators to be monitored, rests with the individual contracting authorities as the specific aspects of performance measurement will vary according to the contract.

The Cabinet Office has issued a contract management checklist, which includes a section on service delivery and can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/contract_management_checklist.pdf

Further guidance is published at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/good-practice-management-framework.pdf

Merchant Navy: Medals

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what consideration he has given to including the Merchant Navy Medal in the orders of wear. [91557]

Mr Maude: The Merchant Navy Medal is not part of the UK Honours System and thus has no place in the Order of Wear. The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals is responsible for considering any departmental recommendations relating to medals policy should they be received.

Geraint Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has any plans to make the Merchant Navy Medal part of the UK Honours System. [92565]

Mr Maude: The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals is responsible for considering any departmental recommendations relating to medals policy.

Office for Civil Society

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what date the Office for Civil Society moved to HM Treasury; and if he will make a statement. [92324]

Mr Hurd: The Office for Civil Society moved to 1 Horse Guards in two stages during the course of May 2011 and continues to remain part of the Cabinet Office.

Public Data Corporation

Andrew Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has for the future of the Public Data Corporation. [91911]

Mr Hurd: In the autumn statement last November, the Government announced the establishment of a data strategy board and a public data group as part of its commitment to create a public data corporation. These organisations will maximise the value of the data from the Met Office, Ordnance Survey, the Land Registry and Companies House and will make available for free a range of core reference datasets from these bodies to support the development of high-value data businesses.

The Cabinet Office and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are currently agreeing Terms of Reference for both organisations. The Government will publish the summary of responses to the Consultation on Data Policy for a Public Data Corporation which took place last summer.

Public Sector: Pay

Damian Collins: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the proportion of Government spending, excluding debt payments, which was allocated to *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension payments and contributions for public sector workers in each year since 1997. [92269]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General of ONS, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the estimate of the proportion of government spending, excluding debt payments which was committed to (a) salaries and (b) pension payments and contributions for public sector workers in each year since 1997. (92269).

The two tables show;

general government current spending excluding debt interest payments,

general government spending on wages and salaries, and

general government total employers' contributions (including pension contributions).

General government wages and salaries and total employers' contributions are presented in pounds sterling and as a proportion of the total general government spending excluding debt payments. Table 1 provides the data by calendar year and Table 2 by financial year.

The figures include pension payments and contributions of employees in central and local government, but not those in public corporations.

Table 1: General Government spending on wages and salaries and employer contributions by calendar year[1]: 1997-2010 United Kingdom

	General Government current spending excluding debt payments (£ million)	*General Government wages and salaries (£ million)*	*Proportion of general Government spending excluding debt interest payments (percentage)*	*General Government total employers' contributions (£ million)*	*Proportion of general Government spending excluding debt interest payments (percentage)*
1997	274960	68599	24.9	14811	5.4
1998	282439	69251	24.5	15648	5.5
1999	295526	72647	24.6	16521	5.6
2000	314709	76971	24.5	17794	5.7
2001	334393	83913	25.1	19012	5.7
2002	365450	90375	24.7	20315	5.6
2003	395490	100568	25.4	20910	5.3
2004	424431	107948	25.4	24035	5.7
2005	450460	114754	25.5	26848	6.0
2006	474860	120855	25.5	28488	6.0
2007	496752	122895	24.7	30862	6.2
2008	526847	124934	23.7	32735	6.2
2009	561860	127294	22.7	35013	6.2
2010	583577	130231	22.3	37058	6.4

[1] Data presented are consistent with the Public Sector Finances statistical bulletin published on 24 January 2012

Table 2: General Government spending on wages and salaries and employer contributions by financial year[1]: 1997-98 to 2010-11 United Kingdom

	General Government spending excluding debt payments (£ million)	*General Government wages and salaries (£ million)*	*Proportion of general Government spending excluding debt payments (percentage)*	*General Government total employers' contributions (£ million)*	*Proportion of general Government spending excluding debt payments (percentage)*
1997-98	275700	68302	24.8	15115	5.5
1998-99	284038	70082	24.7	15747	5.5
1999-2000	299980	73634	24.5	16825	5.6
2000-01	320103	78075	24.4	18168	5.7
2001-02	341936	85345	25.0	19291	5.6
2002-03	371886	92662	24.9	20696	5.6
2003-04	402467	102365	25.4	21343	5.3
2004-05	432135	110140	25.5	24396	5.6
2005-06	458149	117219	25.6	27727	6.1
2006-07	478986	121056	25.3	29116	6.1
2007-08	505502	123309	24.4	31576	6.2
2008-09	533777	126475	23.7	33048	6.2
2009-10	571169	127169	22.3	36268	6.3
2010-11	585967	131093	22.4	36886	6.3

[1] Data presented are consistent with the Public Sector Finances statistical bulletin published on 24 January 2012.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions civil servants from different Government Departments have considered the big society agenda at inter-departmental meetings hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [92325]

Mr Hurd: Big society is an integral part of work that is happening across Government. Civil servants at the Cabinet Office meet frequently with colleagues in other Departments to discuss the big society agenda, and specific policies and programmes relating to it.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Auckland Castle: Art Works

Helen Goodman: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what plans the Church Commissioners have for the future of Auckland Castle and the Zurbaran paintings; and if he will make a statement. [91385]

Tony Baldry: The Church Commissioners have approved terms for the sale of the Zurbaran paintings at Auckland Castle and the castle itself. The sale will facilitate the creation of a visitor attraction, encouraging regeneration in both the town and the region. This is of benefit to the church, town, county and region. The acquisition is by two trusts, each of which has Mr Jonathan Ruffer as a trustee.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Cohesion

23. **Steve Rotheram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce his policy on community cohesion. [92077]

24. **Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce his policy on community cohesion. [92078]

Andrew Stunell: Government's role is to create the conditions which enable integration to happen in all places and all communities. We will not impose a top-down, centrally designed and implemented programme but will trust people to take the lead in their local areas.

Both the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister have explained how seriously we take this task and we will publish a document giving more detail on this shortly.

Fire and Rescue Service

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of changes in the level of funding from the public purse to the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service between 2011-12 and 2014-15. [92060]

Robert Neill: Fire and rescue authorities have been given protection with savings back-loaded to allow changes without affecting the quality and breadth of services provided to communities.

The spending power change for Manchester is -5.2% in 2011-12 and -1.9% in 2012-13.

The Government have set out their proposals to allow local authorities, including fire and rescue authorities, to benefit from business rates retention from 2013-14.

I also refer the hon. Member to my letter of 6 December 2010, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, which outlines how fire and rescue authorities can make sensible savings without impacting on the quality and breadth of services offered to their communities.

Coastal Communities Fund

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the criteria for allocation of the Coastal Communities Fund. [91615]

Grant Shapps: My Department will be issuing a prospectus shortly giving details of the proposed design and delivery of the new Coastal Communities Fund, to be administered in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund. It will include the criteria to be used to assess applications.

We will ensure that all MPs representing coastal constituencies, coastal local authorities and other interested parties receive a copy of the prospectus for the fund.

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the use of the Coastal Communities Fund; and what his policy is on the future of the fund. [92002]

Grant Shapps: The Coastal Communities Fund is not yet in operation as funding only becomes available on 1 April. My Department will be issuing a prospectus shortly giving details of the proposed design and delivery of the fund, to be administered in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund. There is a commitment to review the operation of the new fund after the first year's awards have been made. The fund is intended to be a rolling programme with annual bidding rounds in future years.

All MPs with coastal constituencies, coastal local authorities and other interested bodies will receive a copy of the prospectus for the fund.

Countryside: Planning

Mr Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of the draft National Planning Policy Framework on undesignated countryside in England. [91527]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* The consultation stage impact assessment accompanying the draft National Planning Policy Framework looks at a full range of environmental, social and economic impacts. A final impact assessment will be published alongside the final National Planning Policy Framework. To preserve the natural environment, the draft states that local plans should seek to allocate land for development with the least environmental or amenity value, and should plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.

Local Government Finance

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in how many cases Ministers have exercised their powers to pay additional grant under section 85 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 in each local authority in each year since 1990. [91478]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* The power to pay additional grant under section 85 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 has been exercised just once in 1992, in consequence of the Government making an order under the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Act 1991, giving effect to the recommendations of the review body appointed for the purpose of that Act in relation to teachers' pay for 1992-93. Since implementation of the Local Government Finance Act 2003, if additional grant has been required following a Local Government Finance report, the Government have paid grant under section 31 of that Act. In this context, the Section 85 powers are therefore redundant.

Mayors: Coventry

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 906W, on mayors: Coventry, if he will place in the Library a copy of the letters sent to Coventry city council on the costs of the referendum on elected mayors. [92171]

Greg Clark: I have today placed in the Library of the House, a copy of the two letters sent to Coventry city council on the costs of the referendum on elected mayors.

Regional Growth Fund

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been transferred to the Regional Growth Fund to date; and if he will make a statement. [91823]

Grant Shapps: Funding for the Regional Growth Fund has been profiled for the spending review period. It was announced in the autumn statement that the Regional Growth Fund would allocate an additional £1 billion over the spending period bringing the total to be allocated to £2.4 billion by March 2015.

Shops: Closures

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of recent changes in business rates on the number of shop closures in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* England; and if he will make a statement. [91822]

Robert Neill: No assessment has been made of the effect of recent changes in business rates on the number of shop closures in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* England.

This Government have doubled small business rate relief for two and a half years, which will benefit about half a million ratepayers (with about a third of a million paying no rates at all for that period). This increased tax relief will have supported small shops across the country. We have also taken powers, through the Localism Act 2011, to waive £175 million of backdated business rates demands levied on businesses, including some in ports, to increase the take-up of small business rate relief by making it easier to claim, and to give local authorities powers to provide discounts on business rates bills.

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the regulations required by the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (Amendment) Act 2010 will contain a duty on local authorities to try to reach agreement with communities; [92408]

(2) whether the regulations required by the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (Amendment) Act 2010 will contain a time limit for dealing with proposals made under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007; [92409]

(3) when he expects regulations required by the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (Amendment) Act 2010 will be laid before Parliament; [92410]

(4) whether the regulations required by the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (Amendment) Act 2010 will contain the right for town and parish councils to submit proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [92411]

Greg Clark: The Government are considering the scope of regulations under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 following the consultation exercise conducted last year. We are aiming to make the regulations shortly.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer parliamentary questions 90352 and 90353 on council tax. [92519]

Grant Shapps: Parliamentary questions 90352 and 90353 were answered on 25 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 242-43W.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Elections

Simon Hart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Office has plans to review the level of deposit made by candidates at parliamentary elections. [92005]

Mr Harper: There are no current plans to change the level of deposit which candidates are required to pay in order to stand at UK parliamentary elections, although the Government remains open to representations on the matter. The deposit is intended to strike a balance between allowing candidates to participate while acting as a disincentive to those with no real prospect of success.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Doctors

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies there are for accident and emergency doctors in the NHS. [91950]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Information Centre suspended collection of this data for 2011. A public consultation on the Fundamental Review of Data Returns closed in November 2011. We expect the consultation response to be published during February.

The Department is able to provide data about the number of job advertisements placed on NHS Jobs by employers in the NHS as a proxy measure.

There are 116 adverts[1] for emergency doctors on NHS Jobs that expire on 26 January 2012 or later. There were adverts[2] for 218 doctors in emergency medicine where the advert closed after 1 January 2012 but before 26 January 2012.

[1] Data gathered from NHS Jobs 25 January 2012.

[2] Ibid.

Alzheimer's Disease

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people with Alzheimer's disease; [92348]

(2) how much money is spent on care for those with Alzheimer's disease; and how much money is spent for medication for treatment of Alzheimer's. [92349]

Paul Burstow: Information on spending on care for Alzheimer's disease, by the national health service and local authorities, is not collected centrally. The all-party parliamentary group on dementia, in its report "The £20 Billion Question—An inquiry into improving lives through cost-effective dementia services" (2011) that the financial cost of dementia in the United Kingdom is estimated to be £20 billion a year.

Drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease are classified under section 4.11 (Drugs for dementia) of the British National Formulary (BNF). These drugs are Donepezil, Galantamine, Rivastigmine and Memantine. All of these drugs have been included in the following tables. It should be noted that Rivastigmine is also licensed for dementia associated with Parkinson's disease.

Table 1: Net ingredient cost (NIC) for BNF Section 4.11 Drugs used for dementia dispensed in England for the latest year available

	NIC (£000)
2010	96,054.6

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis database

We can also provide information on the use of these drugs within hospitals in England. These figures are based on a sample and are costed using standard price lists. The figures therefore do not necessarily represent the actual amounts paid by the hospitals.

Table 2: Estimated cost for drugs in BNF Section 4.11 used in hospitals in England for the latest year available

	Cost (£000)
2010	11,789.5

Source:
Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index database

It is estimated that approximately 610,000 people in England have dementia, which includes Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's Disease: Health Services

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* medical professionals and *(b)* NHS officials about the new Alzheimer's treatment Cognitive Stimulation Therapy. [92347]

Paul Burstow: Guidance on treatments and therapies are issued by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence. Its guidance on dementia, supporting people with dementia and their carers in health and social care (2006), identified cognitive stimulation as an area where more research is needed. Cognitive Stimulation Therapy is one of a number of treatments and therapies available for dementia. Clinicians can, and do, decide which course of treatment to prescribe to individual patients with dementia, based on each individual's specific needs.

Arthritis: Medical Treatments

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* arthritis care groups and *(b)* Queen's University Belfast on new treatments for arthritis in the hands. [92026]

Paul Burstow: It is for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, together with relevant professional organisations, to assess new treatment options for people with arthritis in the hands.

Brain: Injuries

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provision of information on post-traumatic hypopituitarism to patients who have suffered head injury; [92176]

(2) what recent representations he has received on diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic hypopituitarism; [92177]

(3) if he will consider introducing routine screening of head injury patients for post-traumatic hypopituitarism. [92180]

Paul Burstow: The Department has received a small amount of correspondence on this matter over the last year.

We have made no assessment of the provision of information on post-traumatic hypopituitarism to patients who have suffered head injury.

There are no plans to introduce routine screening of head injury patients for this condition.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to include information about post-traumatic hypopituitarism in its head injury guidelines; [92178]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on its head injury guidelines. [92179]

Paul Burstow: We have no plans to ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to include information about post-traumatic hypopituitarism in its head injury clinical guideline, and have had no discussions with NICE about its head injury clinical guideline. As an independent body, NICE is responsible for the development of its clinical guidelines in consultation with stakeholders. NICE is undertaking an update of its published head injury clinical guideline, and as part of that review will consult stakeholders on the detailed scope of the guideline.

Cancer: Health Services

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has had any discussions on radiofrequency ablation as a new method to reduce cancerous tumours; and how widely used that method of treatment is. [92346]

Paul Burstow: The Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has had no discussions on radiofrequency ablation (RFA) as a new method to reduce cancerous tumours.

Provided in the following table is the number of finished consultant episodes in England by strategic health authority (SHA) in the last three years where RFA has been used in the treatment of patients with a primary diagnosis of cancer.

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been replaced with an asterisk. Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total, an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced. These data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

SHA	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*
England total	873	693	596
North East England SHA	24	27	28
North West SHA	70	53	53
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	74	56	57
East Midlands SHA	15	7	*
West Midlands SHA	93	60	74
East of England SHA	49	51	9
London SHA	443	356	293
South East Coast SHA	22	11	*
South Central SHA	51	49	43
South West SHA	32	23	29

Additives: Food

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research of the potential *(a)* carcinogenic and *(b)* other effects of parabens in (i) the food supply chain and (ii) cosmetics. [91778]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency has responsibility for food additive issues including the permitted preservatives ethyl and methyl parabens. All food additives have been thoroughly tested for safety prior to approval and have been reviewed by independent expert bodies, such as the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). These tests comprise a range of studies such as those for carcinogenicity, genotoxicity and metabolism. EFSA has concluded that ethyl and methyl parabens are safe to use in foods in line with the requirements of European Union food additive legislation.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has responsibility for cosmetics. We are advised cosmetics are regulated on a European basis, and parabens have their usage restricted under the Cosmetics Directive 76/768/EEC. The Commission's Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) has investigated the use of parabens as recently as December 2010 and noted that there is no evidence of a demonstrable risk for the development of breast cancer caused by the use of underarm cosmetics containing parabens. There have also been investigations into possible other toxicity and developmental effects and recent opinions by the SCCS are that there is no concern except for propyl and butyl paraben in leave-on cosmetic products for children aged under six months which is under review.

Cystitis: Medical Treatments

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* the British Medical Association and *(b)* other organisations on improvements of treatment options for people with cystitis. [92024]

Paul Burstow: It is for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, together with relevant professional organisations, to assess new treatment options for people with cystitis.

Deloitte

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts his Department has awarded to Deloitte since May 2010; and what the *(a)* net and *(b)* individual monetary value was of each such contract. [92443]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table sets out information from the Department's central procurement system about the purchase orders (PO) with Deloitte that the Department created between 24 May 2010 and 25 November 2011.

Item description	*Category description*	*PO value*	£ *PO amount billed*
NHS PASA—Clearance of Accruals 2009-10. Already Actioned—Deloitte	Miscellaneous—Other Expenses	10,110.40	10,110.40
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust. Stage 1 32700. Stage 2 45650. Stage 3 41650	Accounting and auditing services	120,000.00	32,700.00
Ipswich Hospitals NHS Trust—refresh	Accounting and auditing services	11,000.00	11,000.00
Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust	Accounting and auditing services	130,000.00	84,724.00
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust. HDD/WCR Stage 1, 2, and 3	Accounting and auditing services	95,000.00	63,736.00
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust. NHSFT Financial Assessments	Accounting and auditing services	95,000.00	63,736.00
Devon Partnership HDD	Accounting and auditing services	64,710.00	15,360.00
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust Stage 3 FT assessment	Transition Due Diligence	87,234.00	87,234.00
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust. NHSFT Financial Assessments	Transition Due Diligence	130,000.00	81,112.00
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust. NHSFT Financial Assessments	Transition Due Diligence	110,000.00	0.00
NHS Connecting for Health ICT Contract Cost Review	Cost Review	189,000.00	144,286.97
Total		1,042,054.40	593,999.37

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the number of ministerial special advisers in his Department has increased to four; on what date the change took place; and if he will make a statement. [92326]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) on 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 534W.

Diabetes

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with diabetes organisations on dietary and exercise advice for people newly diagnosed with diabetes. [92027]

Paul Burstow: The Department maintains a dialogue with a number of organisations on a wide range of issues on diabetes.

Advice on diet and exercise is included in the Diabetes Quality Standard produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in .2011.

It is for local national health service organisations to deliver comprehensive high-quality and safe diabetes services, appropriate to the needs of their populations, taking the quality standard into account.

The NHS is a devolved matter and the hon. Member may also wish to direct his question to the Northern Ireland Executive Minister for Health.

Disability: Children

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of children are screened for *(a)* visual and *(b)* auditory impairment during a health assessment on school entry; what measures are in place to encourage such screening; and if he will make a statement. [92402]

Anne Milton: The data for both vision and hearing screening are not held centrally.

The 'Healthy Child Programme: pregnancy and the first five years', is the evidence-based prevention and early intervention programme setting out the good practice framework for the delivery of services starting in pregnancy to promote optimal health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.

As part of the screening schedule, the Healthy Child Programme recommends that commissioners ensure there is easy access for children of all ages to audiology services throughout childhood and children should be screened for visual impairment between four and five years of age by an orpthoptist -led service.

General Practitioners

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has provided to GPs who set up patient participation groups. [91831]

Mr Simon Burns: The Patient Participation Directed Enhanced Service (that was agreed with the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association to apply from April 2011) provides general practitioner practices with a maximum payment of £1.10 per registered patient (equivalent to £60 million nationally) for those practices who successfully meet the agreed requirements, which includes setting up a patient reference group.

Health Services

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects to announce the results of the National Quality Board engagement exercise on the library of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standard NHS healthcare topics; and if he will make a statement; [92016]

(2) whether Quality Standards relating to autism care for children and adults will be included in the National Quality Board library of Quality Standard NHS healthcare topics; and if he will make a statement. [92017]

Paul Burstow: We expect to publish details of the Quality Standard topics being referred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), following the engagement exercise, shortly. A copy of the referral letter to NICE will be placed in the Library when it is sent.

Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the timetable is for the introduction of the Veterans' Information Service; [91832]

(2) what plans he has for future funding of the 24-hour support telephone line for veterans; [91833]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to raise public awareness of issues relating to veterans' mental health. [91834]

Mr Simon Burns: The Veterans' Information Service is in the process of being designed to satisfy some of the recommendations in the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire's (Dr Murrison) "Fighting Fit" report. These were that a Veterans' Information Service (VIS) be deployed 12 months after a person leaves the armed forces, and that regulars and reserves are followed-up approximately 12 months after they leave. The VIS will be the final service to be put in place, and will enable us to ensure that consent is sought when someone leaves the armed forces for contact to be made 12 months later. This will reference services that are being established during 2011-12. The planned launch date for the VIS service is currently April 2012.

It was noted in the "Fighting Fit" report that the Department of Health was in the process of "establishing a 24 hour helpline and improving the knowledge base of GPs ..." The first of these items has been completed through the establishment of the Combat Stress Veterans' 24-hour helpline. The Department worked with Combat Stress to procure a professional 24-hour mental health helpline aimed at the armed forces community. The tender was won by Rethink, and the Department provided a grant to Combat Stress to cover set-up, and one year's operations. The helpline was opened on 28 February 2011, and officially launched on 11 March 2011. The helpline is live with ongoing activity in conjunction with Combat Stress to strengthen the armed forces community awareness training of operatives and ensure awareness of complementary services as they come live. Up until December 2011, it had taken over 3,000 calls from over 1,600 different individuals. The helpline's initial one-year period of operations is being evaluated by the Department and a decision will soon be taken as to whether or not to extend the contract.

The Department works closely with the Ministry of Defence, the national health service, their third sector strategic partners (Combat Stress and the Royal British Legion), and others in relation to veterans' mental health issues. The Department takes its responsibility towards the mental health of veterans very seriously and agreed to implement all the recommendations of the "Fighting Fit" report. In getting these initiatives up and running the Department has worked closely with the Ministry of Defence and others to publicise them, with official launches and media activity. All of these activities are contributing to raising awareness of these issues with health care professionals in particular and the public more generally. In addition, the Department's mental health strategy, "No health without mental health", makes specific reference to the mental health needs of veterans.

Health Services: Finance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to payment by results tariffs for hospital treatment on the surpluses of primary care trusts in the north-east; [92468]

(2) if he will issue guidance to primary care trusts on spending budget surpluses; and if he will make a statement; [92469]

(3) what recent representations he has received from *(a)* acute and *(b)* foundation trusts on changes to payment by results tariffs; [92470]

(4) what payment by results tariff was paid to each *(a)* acute trust and *(b)* foundation trust in (i) the north-east, (ii) England in each of the last five years. [92624]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department had not made an assessment of the effect of changes to the payment by results (PbR) tariffs on the surpluses of primary care trusts (PCTs).

The NHS Operating Framework for 2012-13 states that the strategic health authority (SHA) and PCT surplus for 2011-12 will be carried forward into 2012-13. During 2012-13, we shall continue to draw down the surplus generated from previous years in a planned and managed way.

In the last six months, Ministers have received one piece of correspondence from a foundation trust regarding maternity tariff arrangements for 2012-13.

A table showing the amount paid to acute trusts from PCTs under the PbR tariff in the north-east and England has been placed in the Library. For foundation trusts, this information is not held centrally.

Health Services: Older People

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what proportion of finished admission episodes the patient was over *(a)* 65, *(b)* 80 and *(c)* 90 years in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [91915]

Paul Burstow: The information is shown in the following table.

Number and proportion of finished admission episodes[1] for selected age group, 2006-07 to 2010-11[2]

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	65 and over		*80 and over*		*90 and over*	
	Number of FAE	*Percentage of all FAEs*	*Number of FAE*	*Percentage of all FAEs*	*Number of FAE*	*Percentage of all FAEs*
2010-11	5,072,951	34	1,870,980	13	335,274	2
2009-10	4,906,724	34	1,800,586	12	300,498	2
2008-09	4,718,112	33	1,718,406	12	284,974	2
2007-08	4,369,758	32	1,571,078	12	268,358	2
2006-07	4,194,408	32	1,504,736	12	265,587	2

[1] Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] Assessing growth through time

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre

Hip Replacements

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations to replace existing hip and knee replacements have taken place in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [92025]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of operations to replace existing hip and knee replacements that have taken place in England and Wales in each of the last five years and that were reported to the National Joint Registry is provided in the following table.

	Joints		
	Hips	*Knees*	*Total*
2007	7,152	3,850	11,002
2008	7,531	4,593	12,124
2009	7,884	4,960	12,844
2010	8,478	5,444	13,922
2011	8,296	4,939	13,235
Total	39,341	23,786	63,127

Source:

National Joint Registry

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospitals no longer have mixed sex wards. [92001]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect information about mixed-sex wards[1], but information is collected on the number of patients whose care is in breach of guidance on mixed-sex sleeping arrangements. The latest figures show a fall from 11,802 breaches in December 2010 to 767 in December 2011, when 73% (121) of all acute trusts reported zero breaches.

Overall there has been a reduction of breaches of more than 94% in a fraction over a year. By publishing this regular and reliable data, bad performance has been highlighted and the number of breaches of the rules has been substantially reduced.

The Government have made it clear that national health service organisations are expected to eliminate mixed-sex accommodation, except where it is in the overall best interest of the patient, or reflects their personal choice. The commitment to eliminate mixed-sex accommodation can be found in The Operating Framework for the NHS in England for both 2011-12 and 2012-13.

[1] Single-sex accommodation can be provided in:

single-sex wards (i.e. the whole ward is occupied by men or women but not both);

single rooms with adjacent single-sex toilet and washing facilities (preferably en suite); and

single-sex accommodation within mixed wards (i.e. bays or rooms which accommodate either men or women, not both, with designated single-sex toilet and washing facilities preferably within or adjacent to the bay or room).

Infectious Diseases

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress he has made on training for *(a)* GPs and *(b)* hospital accident and emergency staff on spotting outbreaks of infectious diseases. [91891]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of health care training is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies.

Through their role as the custodians of quality standards in education and practice, these organisations are committed to ensuring high quality patient care delivered by high quality health professionals and that health care professionals are equipped with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deal with the problems and conditions they will encounter in practice.

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice on the Prevention and Control of Infections and related guidance (2010), requires providers of health care to have systems in place for the recognition of outbreaks of infectious diseases, which would include training accident and emergency department staff where relevant.

Learning Disability: Medical Equipment

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the future commissioning arrangements for alternative and augmentative communication aids. [91826]

Mr Simon Burns: No separate assessment has been made.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill the Government's intention is that the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) will directly commission a number of services including those specialised services which are currently provided at both national and regional level.

No final decisions have yet been taken on the services the NHS CB will directly commission but Ministers expect to be in a position to do this later this year.

Medical Treatments

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many treatments have been undertaken by the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [91949]

Mr Simon Burns: The available information is shown in the following tables.

Out-patient and in-patient hospital activity, England (commissioner based)

	Out-patients			*In-patients*		
	First attendances seen	*Subsequent attendances seen*	*Total attendances seen*	*Elective General and Acute FFCEs*	*Non-elective General and Acute FFCEs*	*Total General and Acute FFCEs*
2001-02	—	—	—	5,223,407	3,951,857	9,175,264
2002-03	—	—	—	5,327,355	3,999,797	9,327,152
2003-04	—	—	—	5,375,454	4,188,168	9,563,622
2004-05	—	—	—	5,446,929	4,475,636	9,922,565
2005-06	11,859,980	26,350,265	38,210,245	5,657,744	4,654,277	10,312,021
2006-07	12,644,743	28,751,609	41,396,352	5,846,872	4,738,978	10,585,850
2007-08	13,591,220	29,499,509	43,090,729	6,236,082	4,795,153	11,031,235
2008-09	14,953,410	31,808,019	46,761,429	6,675,842	5,087,306	11,763,148
2009-10	16,045,346	33,473,775	49,519,121	6,897,405	5,249,765	12,147,170
2010-11	16,829,606	35,226,086	52,055,692	7,140,728	5,458,748	12,599,476

Out-patient and in-patient hospital activity; England (provider based)

	Out-patients			*In-patients*		
	First attendances seen	*Subsequent attendances seen*	*Total attendances seen*	*Elective General and Acute FFCEs*	*Non-elective General and Acute FFCEs*	*Total General and Acute FFCEs*
2001-02	12,612,615	31,062,363	43,674,978	5,286,086	3,967,192	9,253,278
2002-03	12,878,799	30,886,026	43,764,825	5,413,638	4,013,308	9,426,946
2003-04	13,430,530	31,689,082	45,119,612	5,549,737	4,289,573	9,839,309
2004-05	13,370,173	31,397,428	44,767,601	5,529,668	4,549,542	10,079,210
2005-06	13,726,838	31,494,275	45,221,113	5,762,285	4,781,500	10,543,785
2006-07	13,600,443	31,109,612	44,710,055	5,964,409	4,895,313	10,859,722
2007-08	14,214,277	31,488,416	45,702,693	6,499,121	4,974,598	11,473,719
2008-09	15,536,590	33,176,698	48,713,288	6,778,017	5,205,350	11,983,367
2009-10	16,412,534	34,327,011	50,739,545	6,951,646	5,364,563	12,316,209
2010-11	16,954,190	35,498,064	52,452,254	7,211,663	5,499,325	12,710,988

Note:

The out-patient attendances are for all specialties. The Inpatient First Finished Consultant Episodes (FFCEs) are for General and Acute specialties only. General and Acute does not include maternity, mental illness and learning disability. Commissioner based out-patient attendances were first collected in quarter 1 2005-06 and due to this being a new collection there were issues with data completeness.

Source:

Department of Health Quarterly Activity Return for outpatient attendances and Monthly Activity Return for Inpatient FFCEs.

Motor Neurone Disease: Swindon

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in South Swindon constituency have been diagnosed with motor neurone disease in each of the last five years. [91616]

Paul Burstow: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a primary or secondary diagnosis of motor neuron disease for Swindon primary care trust (PCT) (of residence)[3] for the period 2006-07 to 2010-11.

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] (FCEs) with a primary or secondary diagnosis[2] of motor neuron disease for Swindon PCT (of residence)[3] for the period 2006-07 to 2010-11[4], activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

PCT of residence	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Swindon PCT	36	38	20	25	20

[1] Finished consultant episode (FCE): A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis: the number of episodes where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a hospital episode statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

ICD-10 codes used

G12.2—motor neuron disease.

[3] SHA/PCT of residence: The strategic health authority (SHA) or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

[4] Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Note:

Activity included: Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Muscular Dystrophy

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. [91901]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of health and care professionals, working in conjunction with patients and their families, to arrange the most appropriate health and social care for those living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

A national neuromuscular work plan for the commissioning of specialised services is currently been consulted on prior to being finalised by April 2012.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to support research into Duchenne muscular dystrophy. [91903]

Paul Burstow: The Department spent £0.4 million on directly-funded research into Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) in 2010-11. A three-year project on advanced antisense oligonucleotide technology for exon skipping in DMD started in March 2011. The Department is contributing £1.5 million to this project, with joint funding from the Wellcome Trust.

NHS: Regional Transition

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget was of each Regional Transition Programme Board in each year since its establishment. [92237]

Mr Simon Burns: The regional transition programme is a local initiative that has been established by the North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA). As such, the information requested is not centrally held. The hon. Member may wish to write to the North East SHA, which may hold some relevant information.

NHS: Finance

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Easington of 18 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 874W, on NHS: capital investment, (1) whether any *(a)* decisions have been taken and *(b)* deadlines have been set at local level for the use of the funding; [91858]

(2) what the *(a)* amount and *(b)* source is of the identified capital funding to be made available to the NHS; which body or individual will be responsible for determining the use of the funding; and when he expects to announce plans for the use of the funding; [91859]

(3) with whom in the NHS he is having discussions. [91860]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental officials have been in discussion and working closely with strategic health authority (SHA) cluster colleagues, to establish exactly how this funding could be optimised to achieve best results. In parallel, SHA clusters have been liaising with their organisations and identifying proposals, based on local need, and prioritising them across their region. Any local deadlines are a matter for local determination. No decisions have been taken at this stage. Officials, together with SHA cluster colleagues, will determine the use of this funding and any announcements on this will be made shortly.

It is currently expected that up to £300 million, which has been sourced from existing capital resources, will be invested by the end of March 2013. This will allow time for local investments to be properly planned and prioritised, ensuring the most effective use of this funding.

Osteoporosis: Health Services

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines he has issued to care homes on the prevention, treatment and care of fractures resulting from falls by people with osteoporosis. [92023]

Paul Burstow: The Department provides guidelines through the Department's falls and bone health commissioning toolkit. In addition, the National Hip Fracture Database, which audits the care of hip fracture patients, and the Royal College of Physicians' Falls and Bone health audit also apply to all care settings including care homes.

Osteoporosis: Swindon

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in South Swindon have been diagnosed with osteoporosis in each of the last five years. [91618]

Paul Burstow: Information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the count of finished consultant episodes[1] (FCEs) with a primary or secondary diagnosis[2] of osteoporosis for Swindon primary care trust (PCT) (of residence)[3] for the period 2006-07 to 2010-11[4].

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] (FCEs) with a primary or secondary diagnosis[2] of osteoporosis for Swindon PCT (of residence)[3] for the period 2006-07 to 2010-11[4], activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

PCT of residence	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Swindon PCT	1,114	645	585	577	453

[1] Finished consultant episode (FCE): A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis: the number of episodes where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a hospital episode statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

ICD-10 codes used:
M80—Osteoporosis with pathological fracture
M81—Osteoporosis without pathological fracture
M82—Osteoporosis in diseases classified elsewhere
(M82 only occurs in a secondary position after a dagger code identifying the underlying disease).

[3] SHA/PCT of residence: The strategic health authority (SHA) or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

[4] Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Note:

Activity included: Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Passive Smoking

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on emissions in residential areas from secondary smoking; whether such smoking constitutes a statutory nuisance; and whether he has considered amending regulations in respect of secondary smoking. [92271]

Anne Milton: The Department of Health has not specifically commissioned or evaluated research on the impact of second-hand smoke in residential areas.

Under section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities have a duty to take reasonably practicable steps to investigate complaints of smoke, fumes or gases "emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance". Local authorities take into account a number of things when assessing if a statutory nuisance exists including the reasonableness of the activity being carried out, the time of day of the occurrence, its duration, its frequency of occurrence and whether or not best practicable means was being employed.

If satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists or may occur or recur, the local authority must serve an abatement notice under section 80 of the Act requiring that the nuisance is abated or restricted within a set timescale to prevent its occurrence or recurrence. The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs' recent survey of statutory nuisance complaints found that complaints were made to local authorities about cigarette smoke between 2008 and 2010 but we have no information on whether these were investigated under the statutory nuisance regime or found to be statutory nuisances.

The evidence is clear that the legislation prohibiting smoking in almost all substantially enclosed public places and workplaces, introduced in England on 1 July 2007, has had beneficial effects on health. We also know that levels of compliance and public support for the law are high. The Government believe that the aims of the legislation continue to be effectively achieved and that there is no further need to review the legislation at this time.

Social Services: Finance

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department has received from primary care trusts on plans for spending the 2011-12 NHS social care allocation; which services the money has been allocated to; and what proportion of the money is expected to be spent on older people. [92392]

Paul Burstow: The Department collected information from primary care trusts in September 2011 to understand how the transfer was progressing and on which services it was being used. The information suggests that the money is being used on a wide range of services. A full breakdown of this can be found in the NHS publication "The Quarter", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The Department did not collect information on what proportion of the money is being spent on older people.

Sunbeds: Safety

Mrs Siân C. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps the Government is taking to ensure that operators of sunbed salons provide protective eyewear for users of sunbeds in commercial settings in England; [92208]

(2) what steps the Government is taking to ensure that people under the age of 18 in England do not hire or buy sunbeds; [92372]

(3) what steps the Government is taking to prevent operators of sunbed salons in England from advertising the health benefits of sunbeds; [92373]

(4) what plans the Government has to ensure that sunbed salons in England are staffed. [92374]

Anne Milton: The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010, which came into effect on 8 April 2011 in England and Wales, makes it an offence for sunbed businesses to permit people under the age of 18 access to sunbeds on their commercial premises. The Act also contains powers to enact further regulations which include:

the provision of protective eyewear for sunbed users by sunbed businesses;

prohibiting the hire or sale of sunbeds to under-18s;

preventing the sunbed businesses from advertising the health benefits of sunbeds; and

requirement for staffing sunbed businesses.

The powers to enact further regulations have not been used and the Government are not planning to introduce any further regulations for England at the present time. We will keep the position under review.

The Health and Safety Executive provides best practice guidance for sunbed businesses "Reducing health risks from the use of ultraviolet (UV) tanning equipment" and a poster and leaflet with advice for operators and customers available at:

www.hse.gov.uk/press/2009/e09038.htm

The guidance includes reference to trained staff and the use of protective eyewear for customers and staff.

SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention campaign, also provides information and advice about the risks to health of sunbeds at:

www.sunsmart.org.uk/advice-and-prevention/sunbeds

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the merits of reintroducing school-based Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccination. [92201]

Anne Milton: United Kingdom vaccination policy is based on the expert advice of the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The JCVI has advised that the current approach is the most effective way to protect those most at risk of catching tuberculosis. The JCVI has issued a statement which explains its position, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The Committee most recently reviewed the policy in 2010 and will continue to keep it under review.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of children under one whose parents or grandparents were born in a country where the annual incidence of tuberculosis is greater than 40 cases per 100,000 received Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccinations in the latest period for which figures are available; [92202]

(2) what percentage of children under the age of one living in areas where the incidence of tuberculosis is over 40 cases per 100,00 population receive a Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccination. [92206]

Anne Milton: The Department of Health does not hold data on the proportion of children eligible to receive Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination.

The NHS Information Centre publishes annually data on the number of BCG vaccinations administered nationally by age. These data show that in 2010-11, about 153,000 children aged under one year received the BCG vaccination.

The data is published in the NHS Information Centre report, 'NHS Immunisation Statistics England 2010-11', with the data source given as the KC50.

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how families were informed of their eligibility based on family history for Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccination in medium and low incidence areas in the latest period for which figures are available. [92204]

Anne Milton: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to implement the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccination programme and information on how families are informed of eligibility is not collected centrally. However, typically the national health service would inform them of their eligibility opportunistically, for example at antenatal clinics, new-birth home visits or when starting school.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons his Department's guidance sets local eligibility for Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccination at 40 cases per 100,00 population; and whether in setting this level account was taken of the likelihood of tuberculosis spreading from medium to high risk areas in west London. [92205]

Anne Milton: United Kingdom vaccination policy is based on the expert advice of the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). JCVI has advised that the current approach to Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination is the most effective way to protect those most at risk of catching tuberculosis (TB).

The current selective immunisation policy is designed to provide protection for those individuals who are at risk based on their family and/or residential circumstances e.g. if their parents of grandparents come from country that has a TB incidence rate equal to or greater than 40 cases per 100,000 population, which is the World Health Organisation threshold for indicating high TB incidence.

Universal BCG vaccination is recommended in areas where the incidence is equal to or greater than 40 cases per 100,000 population for operational reasons since these areas generally have a high concentration of families who come from regions of the world where the TB incidence is high. This policy is based on geography in order to target vaccination to children who may be at increased risk of TB in an effective way. The policy does not imply that living in areas with, a high TB incidence puts all children at increased risk of TB infection. This is because most infections of children are likely to occur in household settings.

JUSTICE

Aiding and Abetting

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what representations he has received on joint enterprise in each of the last three years; [91789]

(2) what meetings he has had with victims groups on joint enterprise since May 2010. [91790]

Mr Blunt: We have received a number of representations about joint enterprise law in the last three years. These have included concerns that the law allows some gang members involved in the commission of offences to escape conviction. Conversely, concerns have also been raised that other people have been imprisoned when their involvement in the activities of the group was not significant enough to warrant conviction. Ultimately, the decision to convict is for the jury, taking account of all the evidence heard at the trial.

As my hon. Friend will recall, the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert), met with her and representatives of Families Fighting for Justice (FFJ) on 30 September 2010 to discuss joint enterprise law. I also met with FFJ and other victims groups on 16 June 2011. Details of all our meetings with external organisations are published on the Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/moj/index2011.htm

Community Orders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* administering community orders and *(b)* running community-based punishments in 2011. [92041]

Mr Blunt: As part of the Government's commitment to provide greater transparency, to enable the public to hold services to account and assess whether they are receiving value for money from the services we provide, NOMS will publish, in autumn 2012, three probation level input indicators one of which is the cost per community order. This will be the average, fully-apportioned cost to probation of delivering a community order or suspended sentence order sentence to the service definition as detailed in the NOMS service specification. This will include both managing the sentence and delivering court-ordered requirements. The costs of the latter will be derived from the average number and type of requirements attached to a sentence for an offender on each tier. These indicators will be based on costs from 2011-12.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders received *(a)* five or more, *(b)* 10 or more and *(c)* 15 or more community orders or punishments in 2011. [92042]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows offenders of all ages sentenced to one or more community sentences in 2010, in England and Wales, as recorded on the police national computer. The figures relate to separate sentencing occasions in 2010; where an offender was sentenced on the same occasion for several offences it is the primary offence that has been counted. Where an offender has received several community sentences in the same year some of these may represent amendments or extensions to previous court orders rather than separate court orders. These are the latest available figures for a calendar year.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Offenders sentenced to one or more community sentences in 2010

Number of community sentences	*Number of offenders*
One to four	144,745
Five to nine	651
10 to 14	10
15 or more	—
Total	145,406

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders absconded from community punishments in each of the last five years; and what proportion of offenders serving community punishments that figure represents; [92043]

(2) how many offenders did not complete their community punishments in each of the last five years; and what proportion of offenders serving community punishments that figure represents. [92044]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the proportions of Community Orders terminated for various reasons (out of the total number which terminated) in each of the last five years. The reasons of 'failure to comply with requirements', 'conviction of an offence' and 'other' include all those offenders who did not complete their Community Orders successfully.

From the data held centrally, it is not possible to identify separately those offenders who 'absconded' from supervision, but the proportion shown in the table for 'failure to comply with requirements' will include those offenders who never attended, or stopped attending, supervision or other appointments made as a requirement of their sentence. The term 'abscond' is more commonly used in relation to prisoners rather than those serving community sentences.

Percentage of terminations of Community Orders by reason, 2006 to 2010, England and Wales

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Ran their full course (percentage)	39	47	49	52	53
Terminated early for:					
Good progress (percentage)	13	10	11	12	12
Failure to comply with requirements (percentage)	24	22	19	16	15
Conviction of an offence (percentage)	14	12	11	10	10
Other reasons (percentage)	10	10	10	10	10
All Community Orders (=100%)	70,577	113,829	124,411	130,533	130,474

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Court Orders: Compensation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many compensation orders were issued in each of the last three years; and what the total value of those compensation orders was. [92039]

Mr Blunt: The number and total monetary value of compensation orders imposed at all courts for all offences in England and Wales in each year between 2008 and 2010 (latest currently available) can be viewed in the following table.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in May 2012.

Number and total value of compensation[1] orders imposed in all courts for all offences, England and Wales, 2008-10[2,3]

	2008	2009	2010
Number of orders made	244,282	157,410	154,428
Total value[4] of orders made (£)	33,451,977.08	44,496,658.80	44,620,426.32

[1] Including compensation orders given as second, third and fourth disposals for principal offences.

[2] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed, Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Note that courts have the power to reduce or discharge the order at a subsequent date if the offender's circumstances change, therefore the amounts of compensation shown in this table are those imposed at the time of sentence.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice

Criminal Proceedings

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (1) people pleaded guilty for each type of offence in *(a)* Crown courts and *(b)* magistrates courts in the last year for which figures are available; [91513]

(2) cases brought before magistrates courts have pleaded guilty in each year since 1997. [91570]

Mr Blunt: Table 1, as follows, provides the number of defendants pleading guilty in the Crown court by offence, in England and Wales. This information is not available for defendants pleading in the magistrates courts for the years requested. The available statistics relate to the estimated proportion of defendants pleading guilty in the magistrates courts. These statistics are provided in Table 2 and Table 3, and are estimates sourced from the discontinued Time Interval Survey.

Table 2 provides the estimated proportion of defendants who pleaded guilty at first hearing in the magistrates courts in England and Wales from 1997 to 2010. The proportion of defendants who pleaded guilty at the first hearing in the magistrates courts, by offence groupings is provided in Table 3.

Table 1: Defendants tried at the Crown court for all offences by plea, England and Wales 2010[1, 2]

Offence group	*Guilty*	*Not guilty*	*Not recorded*	*Total*
Violence against the person	16,116	10,292	93	26, 501
Sexual offences	2,676	4,277	39	6,992
Burglary	7,413	2,014	20	9,447
Robbery	4,864	2,437	18	7,319
Theft and handling stolen goods	7,046	2,832	18	9,896
Fraud and forgery	6,031	1,707	23	7,761
Criminal damage	1,423	623	29	2,075
Drug offences	11,463	2,302	13	13,778
Other indictable offences	11,385	4,467	44	15,896
Indictable motoring offences	1,514	341	4	1,859
Summary offences excluding motoring	4,022	404	5	4,431
Summary motoring offences	425	37	—	462
All offences	74,378	31,733	306	106,417

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: All defendants in criminal cases in the magistrates courts: plea at initial hearing, by offence group. England and Wales, 2010 and 2011 (combined)[1, 2, 3]

Percentage

Offence group	*Initial guilty plea at first hearing*	*Initial not guilty plea at first hearing*	*Initial no plea at first hearing*	*Committed/ sent for trial at first hearing*
Violence against the person	32	30	20	18
Sex Offences	19	12	22	46
Robbery	14	12	14	59
Burglary	36	16	18	31
Theft and Handling Stolen Goods	67	10	19	4
Fraud and Forgery	35	12	26	27
Criminal Damage	59	17	21	3
Drug Offences	66	5	16	14
Other Indictable	31	14	25	30
Indictable Motoring Offences	53	10	18	19
Summary offences excluding motoring	33	10	56	1
Summary motoring	48	8	44	0
All offences	44	11	40	5

[1] Results are based on all completed criminal proceedings in all magistrates courts in England & Wales during one sample survey periods in March and September in 2010 and March 2011.

[2] All defendants refer to adult and youth defendants.

[3] Plea data are based on the initial plea when the trial was first listed/heard. The survey does not collect information on the plea after the first hearing.

Source:

Time Interval Survey—Ministry of Justice

Table 3: All defendants in all criminal cases, estimated proportion of pleas at initial hearing at magistrates courts, England and Wales, 1997 to March 2011[1, 2, 3]

Percentage

	Initial guilty plea at first hearing	*Initial not guilty plea at first hearing*	*Initial no plea at first hearing*	*Committed/sent for trial at first hearing*
1997	33	5	58	3
1998	35	5	58	3
1999	34	9	56	1
2000	37	13	49	1
2001	39	7	52	2
2002	37	8	54	2
2003	37	8	53	2
2004	39	9	50	2
2005	40	9	48	2
2006	41	10	46	3
2007	40	10	47	3
2008	44	10	42	4
2009	43	10	43	4
2010	44	11	41	5
2011[4]	45	11	39	5

[1] Includes adult and youth defendants.

[2] Estimates based on one week sample for all defendants in criminal proceedings that were completed in the magistrates courts.

[3] Between 1997 and 1999, the results are based on one week period of each June. 1999 is a transitional period and results are now based on two surveys. Those are conducted in February and September. Thereafter, all criminal cases are collected in March and September.

[4] The Time Interval Survey was discontinued and estimates arc based on the last survey in March 2011.

Source:

Time Interval Survey—Ministry of Justice

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of weeks from charge to a case being heard was for each type of offence triable in *(a)* Crown courts and *(b)* magistrates courts in the most recent year for which figures are available. [91514]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 provides the average length of time in weeks from: (i) the date of offence to the date of charge/laying of information; (ii) the date of charge/laying of information to the date of completion; and (iii) the date of offence to the date of completion. This is provided for: *(a)* cases completing in the Crown court and; *(b)* cases completing in the magistrates court, for the financial year from 2010-11, the latest financial year for which figures are available.

These statistics are sourced from the administrative data systems used in the courts, and have been produced by linking together records held on the two datasets.

Summary statistics on the timeliness of criminal proceedings in the magistrates courts and Crown court are published by the Ministry of Justice in the statistical bulletins "Court Statistics Quarterly". Statistics for the quarter July to September 2011 were published on 12 January on the Department's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/judicial-quarterly.htm

Table 1: Magistrates and Crown courts, all defendants[1] *in criminal cases by offence group, England and Wales: timeliness stages (average weeks) from offence and charge to completion, financial year 2010-11*

All criminal cases

Offence group	*Offence to charge/ laying of information (weeks)*	*Charge/ laying of information to completion (weeks)*	*Offence to completion (weeks)*[2]
(a) Proceedings completing in the Crown court[3]			
Burglary	8	20	28
Criminal damage	9	27	36
Drug offences	15	26	41
Fraud and forgery	72	28	100
Indictable motoring offences	9	25	34
Robbery	8	25	32
Sexual offences	51	33	84
Theft and handling stolen goods	22	27	49
Violence against the person	10	29	38
Other indictable offences	20	29	49
Summary motoring cases	4	17	21
Summary non-motoring cases	8	17	25
All criminal cases	19	27	46
(b) Proceedings completing in the magistrates court[4]			
Burglary	7	7	14
Criminal damage	4	8	13
Drug offences	5	5	10
Fraud and forgery	52	11	62
Indictable motoring offences	13	14	27
Robbery	6	11	17
Sexual offences	17	14	31
Theft and handling stolen goods	4	6	10
Violence against the person	5	9	14
Other indictable offences	13	11	23
Summary motoring cases	15	9	24
Summary non-motoring cases	11	8	19
All criminal cases	12	8	20

[1] All defendants refer to adult and youth defendants.

[2] Figures have been rounded to the nearest week. Intermediate stages may not add up to the total offence to completion, due to rounding.

[3] The offence group is taken from data collected at the magistrates court, therefore some cases, such as summary offences may have been upgraded by the time they reach the Crown court.

[4] Includes all cases concluded in the magistrates courts during the specified time period and excludes cases completed in magistrates court but not completed in the Crown court. Data are sourced from the linked administrative court data and includes around 95% of completed proceedings. These data are only available from April 2010.

Source:

Libra MIS Timeliness Analysis Report (TAR) and CREST linked court data, HM Courts and Tribunals Service.

Criminal Proceedings: Costs

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost per day was of a case heard in a *(a)* magistrates court and *(b)* Crown court in each year between 1997 and 2011 inclusive. [91551]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service, HMCTS, has no court cost statistics prior to the creation of Her Majesty's Court Service on 1 April 2005. Prior to financial year 2009-10, financial systems did not support the jurisdictional analyses that are the basis of current costings. It is therefore not possible to provide meaningful comparatives for the average cost per hearing day for earlier years.

Courts average cost per hearing day are as follows:

		£
	2009-10	*2010-11*
(a) Magistrates court	1,341	1,323
(b) Crown court	2,043	2,021

Costs are judicial, administration and court costs incurred directly by the courts, excluding overheads and depreciation.

Bronzefield Prison

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much Sodexo has paid for carrying out police national computer checks on visitors to Bronzefield prison. [91838]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not available and to extract the data from financial reports would result in disproportionate cost.

Offenders: National Insurance

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners released did not have a National Insurance number in the most recent year for which figures are available. [90189]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not collect this information.

Prison Sentences

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been sentenced to an extended sentence for public protection in each year since 2005. [92006]

Mr Blunt: The number of males and females sentenced to immediate custody at all courts and, of these, the number who received an extended sentence of imprisonment, in England and Wales, from 2005 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in May 2012.

Number of males and females sentenced to immediate custody at all courts and, of these, the number sentenced to an extended sentence of imprisonment, England and Wales, 2005-10[1,2]

		Immediate custody	
			Of which:
Sex	*Year*	*Number sentenced*	*Extended sentence of imprisonment*[3,4]
Males	2005	92,955	1,461
	2006	88,173	1,266
	2007	87,371	1,103
	2008[5]	90,812	653
	2009[6]	91,801	422
	2010	93,021	438
Females	2005	8,281	32
	2006	7,844	33
	2007	7,795	27
	2008[5]	8,359	18
	2009[6]	8,100	12
	2010	8,196	15
All persons[7]	2005	101,236	1,493
	2006	96,017	1,299
	2007	95,206	1,130
	2008[5]	99,525	671
	2009[6]	100,231	434
	2010	101,513	453

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Where males or females under the age of 21 are included in these figures they will have been sentenced to detention.

[4] Persons whose offences were committed prior to 4 April 2005 will have been sentenced to an extended sentence under s85 of Powers of the Criminal Court (Sentencing) Act 2000.

[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[6] Revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.

[7] Includes persons where sex is 'not stated', therefore 'males' and 'females' figures may not add to 'All persons' totals.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Prisoners' Home Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2012, *Official Report,* columns 862-63W, on prisoners' home leave, on how many occasions restricted patients released into the community have reoffended. [92040]

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to provide the information requested on the number of restricted patients who have committed further offences either on community leave or when conditionally discharged, without a manual check of over 6,000 files at disproportionate cost.

Among all restricted patients who were discharged from hospital for the first time between 1999 and 2007, 5.8% were reconvicted within two years of their discharge.

Prisoners' Release

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those serving custodial sentences were released after serving half of their sentence in each year between 1995 and 2011. [90478]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the percentage of prisoners serving determinate sentences who were released prior to the half-way point of the sentence under the two principal early release schemes that have operated during this period, and thereby indicates the proportion that were released on or after the half-way point. It relates to those serving determinate sentences only. Those serving indeterminate sentences are released from prison only after they have served the minimum period in custody (tariff) set by the court. Data prior to 1998 are not held centrally; figures for 2011 are not yet available.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners are released in accordance with the legislation that applies to their sentence and there have been various statutory release regimes operating during the period 1995 to 2011 which are explained as follows.

The Criminal Justice Act 1967 applied to prisoners sentenced before 1 October 1992. Such prisoners were eligible for parole from the one-third point of their sentence and therefore could be released before the half-way point if this was agreed by the Parole Board. If not granted parole they were released automatically at the two-thirds point of the sentence. Since 1992 the number of prisoners eligible for release under the 1967 Act regime has diminished to only a handful currently.

Prisoners sentenced after 1 October 1992 are subject to the release regimes of the Criminal Justice Acts of 1991 or 2003 (or the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 in the case of young offenders serving Detention and Training Orders (DTOs)).

Throughout the period in question, therefore, the overwhelming majority of prisoners have been subject to the 1991 and 2003 Act regimes. These require the release of all determinate sentence prisoners automatically at the half-way point, subject to any days added for breaches of prison discipline. There are two exceptions where release may take place after the half-way point involving an increasingly small pool of offenders serving long sentences subject to the 1991 Act regime or extended sentences imposed before 14 July 2008.

A number of schemes have operated during this period under which certain prisoners may be released before the half-way point is reached.

Since 1999, short-term, low-risk prisoners have been considered for release under the home detention curfew (HDC) scheme, which requires them to reside at an approved address generally for 12 hours per day, subject to electronic monitoring and recall to prison for failing to comply with the scheme. All registered sex offenders and violent offenders serving extended sentences are excluded from HDC, specified violent and previous sexual offenders not required to register are presumed unsuitable and all prisoners must pass an individual risk assessment before HDC may be granted.

There is a similar release scheme available to young people sentenced to Detention and Training Orders. Young people sentenced to DTOs serve the first half of their sentence in custody and the second half in the community. Where the Order is for at least eight months there is a presumption that the young person will be released one or two months prior to the half-way point unless they are serving a sentence for specific sexual or violent offences or their behaviour and/or progress against their training plan is unsatisfactory. Data on early release from DTO is not collated separately but in 2010-11 there were around 1,110 young offenders in custody serving a DTO.

Between June 2007 and March 2010, when the scheme was withdrawn, prisoners who met the eligibility criteria serving sentences between four weeks and four years were released under temporary licence 18 days prior to the half-way point of the sentence under the End of Custody Licence Scheme.

Finally, since 2005, foreign national prisoners eligible for removal from the UK could be deported or removed prior to the half-way point of the sentence under the Early Removal Scheme (ERS). Data on ERS has not been collated over this period but, in 2010, the UK Border Agency removed or deported 5,235 foreign national prisoners, around a third under ERS.

Prisoners released from determinate sentences, 1998 to 2010

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Total number released[1]	79,000	85,500	86,200	83,100	86,400	84,800	86,100	84,200	82,400	85,500	94,900	91,200	89,700
Releases on Home Detention Curfew (HDC)	—	14,847	15,510	13,649	20,456	21,188	19,294	17,296	13,666	11,428	11,721	11,534	12,250
Releases on End of Custody Licence (ECL)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16,197	31,318	29,371	4,692

Prisoners released from determinate sentences, 1998 to 2010

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Percentage HDC releases	—	17	78	16	24	25	22	21	17	13	12	13	14
Percentage ECL releases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	33	32	5
Releases not on HDC or ECL[1, 2]	—	70,600	70,700	69,500	65,900	63,600	66,800	66,900	68,700	57,900	51,900	50,300	72,700
Percentage releases not HDC or ECL[2]	—	83	82	84	76	75	78	79	83	68	55	55	81

[1] Figures for the total number of releases and releases not on HDC or ECL are rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] Includes a very small number of prisoners released prior to the half-way point under (a) the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1967; (b) the Early Removal Scheme for foreign national prisoners; and (c) the early release scheme for Detention and Training Orders.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average additional time spent in custody was for people recalled to prison in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [91839]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not routinely collected, however, based on a one-off analysis of those recalled to prison in 2008, the average time spent in custody was estimated to be around eight months. This average figure excludes fixed term recalls, under which offenders spend a fixed period of up to 28 days in custody on recall.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Finance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget his Department plans to allocate to each prison in each of the next five years. [92210]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is as follows:

Financial years 2012-13 to 2017-18

Spending review 2010 agreed MOJ's budget up to 2014-15; however, detailed allocations are done only on an annual basis. NOMS is in the process of allocating 2012-13 budgets to individual prisons and will agree this before the start of the financial year.

Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been charged with *(a)* control for gain of prostitution and *(b)* other offences related to trafficking in the London area since Specialist Crime Directorate 9 in the Metropolitan Police was created; [91983]

(2) how many prosecutions there have been for trafficking-related offences in the London area since Specialist Crime Directorate 9 in the Metropolitan Police was created. [91984]

Mr Blunt: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, in the Metropolitan Police force area, for human trafficking offences, from 1 April (when Specialist Crime Directorate 9 was created) to 31 December 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Data provided may or may not have resulted from operations conducted by the Specialist Crime Directorate 9.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 will be available in May 2012.

Charging data are not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in the Metropolitan Police force area for human trafficking offences[1] from 1 April to 31 December 2010[2,3,4]

	Defendants
Metropolitan Police force area	7

[1] Includes offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants Act) 2004.

[2] The Specialist Crime Directorate 9 was created on 1 April 2010. Data given in the table may or may not have resulted from operations conducted by this directorate.

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Sentencing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made in its review of community sentences. [92166]

Mr Blunt: We are currently developing proposals to reform sentences in the community and intend to publish those for a period of consultation in due course.

Tribunals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will review the arrangements by which first tier tribunals (tax) operate in cases where one party is unable to attend a tribunal hearing; and if he will consider introducing measures to keep a verbatim record of tribunal hearings when one party is absent; [92045]

(2) what the average length of time taken for a judge to give judgment on a first tier tribunal (tax) case after a hearing has taken place was in 2011. [92046]

Mr Djanogly: The information is as follows:

(1) The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), currently has no plans to review the arrangements by which first tier tribunals (tax) operate in cases where one party is unable to attend a tribunal hearing. The First-tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber) can hear an appeal in a party's absence if the tribunal is satisfied that both (a) the party has been served with notice of the hearing (or reasonable steps have been taken to notify him/her) and (b) it is in the interests of justice to do so. These provisions are detailed in the procedure rules that support the Tax Chamber: The Tribunals Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Tax Chamber) Rules 2008. The decision to proceed in the absence of a party is a judicial one and not an administrative one. Either party has the option of submitting an application to postpone the hearing, which the tribunal will consider on its merits.

The Secretary of State for Justice has no plans to introduce measures to keep a verbatim record of tribunal hearings when one party is absent. The First-tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber) does not have the facility to make a verbatim transcript of hearings before it. The judge is expected to make a note of the proceedings, but it is a note and not a verbatim record.

(2) The First-tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber) does not report on the average time taken from the date of the hearing to the date of promulgation of the decision. It is not possible to obtain such data without disproportionate cost. In addition any figures would tend to be misleading as the average time would cover all appeals ranging from straightforward cases where a judgment can be given on the day of the hearing to complex appeals heard by a panel of three where a judgment may necessarily take some months, and may be seen in draft by the parties prior to its issue.

We have however recently published Quarterly Tribunals Statistics for the period 1 July to 30 September 2011. Table 1.4 of the publication

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/tribs-stats/quarterly-tribs-stats-q2-11-12.pdf

provides information on the following performance measures for the First Tier (Tax) Tribunal:

The percentage of standard/complex cases disposed of within 70 weeks of receipt (58% disposed of in 70 weeks in Quarter 2)

The percentage of paper cases disposed of in 20 weeks (88% disposed of in 20 weeks in Quarter 2); and

The percentage of basic cases disposed of in 20 weeks (76% disposed of in 20 weeks in Quarter 2).

Youth Custody

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure each *(a)* youth offending team and *(b)* young offender institution has a children's council. [92370]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Board encourages all youth offending teams to fully take into account the views of children and young people. The decision on whether a children's council or an equivalent body is the best means of achieving this are made at a local level.

The regimes provided in each under-18 young offender institution are governed by Prison Service Instruction 28/2009 'Care and Management of Young People'. That instruction mandates that all governors must have in place arrangements for consulting all young people about a range of issues through bodies such as representative consultative groups which meet regularly and must provide them with information about those arrangements. Prison Service Instruction 28/2009 has recently been reviewed and its replacement will be published in the spring. The replacement Prison Service instruction retains the instruction, which mandates consultative groups as outlined above.

Youth Custody: Education

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to provide access to full-time education for children serving community or custodial sentences. [92366]

Mr Blunt: Young persons of compulsory school age who are serving community sentences are expected to be in full-time education in the community. Youth offending teams work closely with local authorities and schools on interventions designed to ensure that young offenders are attending school and addressing their learning needs. Young persons held in the secure estate have access to a full day of education and constructive activity and receive an individual learning plan to address their learning needs and objectives while in custody.

Youth Custody: Mental Health Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure a child psychologist is in place in every youth offending team. [92367]

Mr Blunt: Health services are a statutory partner of the youth offending team as set out by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. We expect youth offending teams to have access to all services relevant to ensuring that young people are appropriately assessed and receive interventions suitable to their needs. The most recent audit of youth offending team health workers (2009) found that 151 youth offending teams (out of a total of 157 at that time) had a practitioner seconded from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) through whom access to a range of professionals, including a child psychologist, would be available.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account is taken of the levels of duty which are in operation in other countries when assessing the level of air passenger duty. [92627]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government continue to monitor developments in other countries and are aware that several have recently introduced their own passenger taxes. Many other countries also charge VAT on flights, which the UK does not. The Government have also made clear that air passenger duty is primarily a revenue raising duty which makes an important contribution to the public finances.

Bank Services: Low Incomes

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to provide information for the *(a)* long-term unemployed and *(b)* lower earners on the benefits and discounts of opening bank accounts to set up direct debits. [92257]

Mr Hoban: The Money Advice Service was established as the Consumer Financial Education Body in April 2010 to promote understanding of the financial system and raise levels of financial capability across the UK. It offers free and impartial information and advice to consumers on money matters.

The Money Advice Service offers a range of online information available to all consumers which includes advice on opening bank accounts. Full details are available on the Money Advice Service website

http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/

Departmental Expenditure: Alcoholic Drinks

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies have spent on (i) wine, (ii) other alcoholic refreshments and (iii) bottled water since May 2010. [91963]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* A record of wine, other alcoholic refreshments and bottled water is not held centrally and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Economic Situation: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the Government's response to the consultation on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy. [92414]

Mr Gauke: The Government published their response to the consultation, 'Rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy: summary of consultation responses', on 20 December 2011. The document is available on the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/condoc_responses_rebalancing_ni_economy.pdf

Excise Duties: Beer

Bob Stewart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to reduce the rate at which duty is applied to beer in order to increase the competitiveness of the UK brewing industry in Europe. [92215]

Miss Chloe Smith: Alcohol excise duty is levied on all beer that is consumed in the UK, whether it is domestically produced or imported from abroad. UK beer exports to Europe do not pay UK excise duty, but are liable for excise duties in the country they are destined for.

The revenues from alcohol excise duty make an important contribution to reducing the deficit. Decisions about tax policy are a matter for the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92115]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury does not publish the responses to all Freedom of Information Act requests that it receives. Responses are published, on the FOI disclosure log linked from the home page of the HM Treasury public website, if the information released is considered to be of wider public interest. Publication usually occurs on the same day as the response is sent out.

Income Tax

Mr Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (ii) the London borough of Bexley have (A) overpaid and (B) underpaid income tax in the last three years. [91991]

Mr Gauke: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost as the relevant HMRC systems do not include details of taxpayers' parliamentary constituency.

Local Government Finance

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has assessed the likely efficacy of a local authorities bond market to finance local capital expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [92610]

Danny Alexander: Local authorities are free to use municipal bonds to finance capital investment. It is for local authorities to decide the most appropriate means of financing local capital projects. In doing so, local authorities should consider factors such as market conditions, value for money, product flexibility and administrative costs.

Portacabins

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the green portacabins on King Charles street will be removed before the commencement of the Olympics. [91781]

Miss Chloe Smith: The portacabins belong to Westminster city council.

Private Finance Initiative

Jim Shannon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has put in place to control private finance initiative contracts. [92337]

Danny Alexander: Those projects that have not yet reached financial close are subject to the new assurance and approval arrangements introduced by the Treasury and the Cabinet Office in April 2011. The Major Project approval and assurance guidance can be accessed at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/major_projects_approvals_assurance_guidance.PDF

In respect of signed PFI contracts, in July 2011 the Treasury announced a plan to deliver £1.5 billion of savings across the operational PFI projects in England. These savings can be fully recycled back into frontline services by the contracting authority.

Private Finance Initiative: Inflation

Jim Shannon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* local health authorities and *(c)* education bodies to ensure that inflation is not added into private finance initiative contracts. [92338]

Danny Alexander: The Treasury makes its guidance on the value for money considerations of inflation indexing the unitary charge available to all procuring authorities at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_finance_guidance.htm

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statements of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 927-29, and of 20 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1201-4, on public sector pensions, if he will provide a definition of the term accrued rights as used in the statements. [91724]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 26 January 2012]*: The meaning of the term accrued rights as used in the oral statements referred to is as set out in the oral statement of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 927-29:

> "Everything that public servants have earned until the point of change, they will keep, and those things will be paid out in the terms expected and at the retirement age expected."

Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the overall change in expected total expenditure on *(a)* social security, *(b)* tax credits, *(c)* unemployment benefit and *(d)* housing benefit between 2011-12 and 2015-16 as a result of changes to fiscal forecasts between (i) June 2010 and November 2011, (ii) November 2010 and November 2011 and (iii) March 2011 and November 2011. [92608]

Mr Gauke: The estimates of changes in social security and tax credits between 2011-12 and 2015-16 are set out by the Office for Budget Responsibility in their 'Economic and fiscal outlook' and accompanying supplementary fiscal tables, which are available on their website for each forecast made in June 2010, November 2010, March 2011 and November 2011:

June 2010 'Economic and fiscal outlook'

Table C14:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/junebudget_annexc.pdf

November 2010 'Economic and fiscal outlook'

Tables 4.16 and 4.17:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf

Table 1.4:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/pubs/fiscal_supplementary_tables_291110.xls

March 2011 'Economic and fiscal outlook'

Tables 4.18 and 4.19:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/economic_and_fiscal_outlook_23032011.pdf

Tables 2.9, 2.11 and 2.13:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/pubs/obr_fiscal_supplementary_tables1.xls

November 2011 'Economic and fiscal outlook'

Tables 4.21 and 4.22:

http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/Autumn2011EFO_web_version138469072346.pdf

Tables 2.11 and 2.12:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/pubs/Fiscal-Supplementary-Tables-AS11.xls

Breakdowns of the forecasts for the DWP social security benefits, which include forecasts for unemployment benefit and housing benefit, are shown on the DWP website and are available for each of the OBR forecasts made in June 2010, November 2010, March 2011 and November 2011:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=medium_term

Tax Yields

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the overall change in expected total (1) tax revenue between 2011-12 and 2015-16 arising from changes to fiscal forecasts between *(a)* June 2010 and November 2011, *(b)* November 2010 and November 2011 and *(c)* March 2011 and November 2011; [92603]

(2) revenue from *(a)* VAT, *(b)* income tax, *(c)* national insurance contributions, *(d)* corporation tax, *(e)* capital gains tax, *(f)* fuel duties and *(g)* business rates between 2011-12 and 2015-16 arising from changes to fiscal forecasts between (i) June 2010 and November 2011, (ii) November 2010 and November 2011 and (iii) March 2011 and November 2011. [92604]

Mr Gauke: Changes in total receipts and particular revenue streams between each fiscal forecast are set out by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) in its 'Changes to current receipts' tables published in successive "Economic and fiscal outlooks".

OBR "Economic and fiscal outlook" publications are available on the OBR's website:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/

Taxation: Profit Sharing

Mr Ward: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the tax treatment of employee benefit trusts to encourage employee ownership of companies. [92174]

Mr Gauke: The Government have no immediate plan to review the tax treatment of employee benefit trust arrangements to encourage employee ownership of companies.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [91403]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury monitors spending on core big society and Office for Civil Society programmes.

The Department is also involved in work, led by Cabinet Office, to implement the Government's open public services agenda, including several policies supporting the big society initiative. The progress made in relation to the open public services agenda will be detailed in a forthcoming publication.

Further to this, HM Treasury has joint responsibility with the Cabinet Office for the departmental business plan framework. This framework is key to monitoring delivery of business plans across Government, some of which track progress on policies that are central to supporting the big society initiative. Business plans will be updated in spring 2012.

VAT: Internet

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reconsider his requirement for VAT returns to be made online by April 2012 for small traders in *(a)* rural and *(b)* other areas without good broadband access. [92625]

Mr Gauke: From April 2012 virtually all VAT-registered businesses will have to file VAT returns online.

Broadband is not required to file a VAT return. HMRC VAT filing software can be used with dial-up internet connections.

HMRC has put in place extensive support to enable customers to go online, and has also worked with third parties (such as UK Online, national and regional trade and enterprise bodies, and the bookkeeping and agent organisations) to ensure that support is in place for those who need it. HMRC has published details of all the help and support available to VAT customers moving to online filing on the 'What's New' section of its website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/index.htm

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 31 January 2012

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many customers used the Jubilee Café in the last year; what proportion of customers only purchased drinks; and what proportion of customers purchased food. [91829]

John Thurso: In the 12 months to December 2011, a total of 74,209 transactions were recorded in the Jubilee Café. A transaction is defined as a purchase, with payment, at the point of sale. The purchase may be for one or multiple customers paid for in a single transaction.

No record is kept of the proportion of customers purchasing drinks only or purchasing food in the Jubilee Café.

The hon. Lady might find it helpful to speak directly to the Director of Catering and Retail Services on these detailed matters.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Leader of the House whether his office publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92127]

Sir George Young: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), on 30 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 415W.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Translation Services

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Crown Prosecution Service spent on translation and interpretation services in each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [92429]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) spent the following amounts on translation and interpretation services in each of the last five financial years:

	Expenditure (£)
2006-07	1,340,401
2007-08	1,521,351
2008-09	1,639,160
2009-10	1,787,386
2010-11	2,065,813

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Attorney-General whether the Law Officers' Departments publishes on their websites their response to each request they receive under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of their websites on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on their websites. [92131]

The Attorney-General: The Attorney-General's Office (AGO), Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Treasury Solicitors Department (TSol) or Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) do not currently publish FOI responses on their websites.

The Serious Fraud Office publishes responses on its website where it has provided information, either wholly or partially. No record is kept on the time taken between responding to such requests and their publication on the website.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General what contribution the Law Officers' Departments are making to implementation of the compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92293]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is committed to the principles of the compact in its engagement with a range of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Such engagement takes place on a regular basis both at a national and local level through set structures.

At a national level engagement takes place on a quarterly basis through the Community Accountability Forum (CAF), which includes as its membership national CSOs. National engagement also takes place on specific policies to help ensure that these take on board the perspective, views and concerns of communities and are responsive to need.

At a local level the CPS has established Local Scrutiny and Involvement Panels (LSIPs), whose membership includes local CSOs, in order to meaningfully and regularly engage on local issues and concerns and to improve transparency. A range of other engagement and partnership working takes place locally on specific local issues and concerns—examples include violence against women and girls crimes and hate crimes.

In relation to volunteering, the CPS successfully launched its Pro Bono and Volunteers Network (CPVN) in June 2009 in order to enable staff to take an active role in volunteering in the community.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) aims to ensure that it works in partnership with Civil Society Organisations (CSO) to achieve common goals and outcomes for the benefit of communities and citizens in England. The SFO achieves this in a number of ways.

The SFO works with the Witness Service, Victim Support and Public Concern at Work to support the victims of fraud and whistleblowers. The SFO also supports events to raise public awareness of serious economic crime. These events are often run by CSOs such as Transparency International and Age Concern.

As part of its commitment to equality and diversity the SFO works with Stonewall to promote a fairer workplace.

Finally the SFO sponsors a volunteering scheme to enable members of staff to get involved with local projects to support the big society.

The Attorney-General's Office, Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSOL) and the HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate do not have direct working relationships with CSOs because the nature of their work is focused on providing services to other Government Departments. Consequently they are not involved in designing or delivering services, programmes or policies for citizens and communities, or providing funding to any civil society organisations.

TSOL does however have a number of staff who volunteer on a regular basis for the GLS Pro Bono Network, and provides special leave for those who act as a magistrate, school governor or trustee of a charity. In addition the Department allows staff one day's paid special leave per year to undertake 'community or voluntary work which is for the benefit of others outside their immediate friends and family.

SCOTLAND

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92111]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office publishes its response to each request where the request is granted in full and other responses where there is a substantial public interest in the information being disclosed. We also keep our criteria for disclosure under regular review.

Latest releases are routinely published on the Scotland Office website at:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/15263.141.html

and releases relating to previous years can be viewed at:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/9794.142.html

The average time taken between responding to a request and the information being available on the Scotland Office website is not readily available without incurring disproportionate cost; however, responses are published each month. Requests responded to in December 2011 have already been published, and requests responded to in January 2012 will be published in early February.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Statistics

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what occasions the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority has written to him expressing concern about his Department's use of statistics since May 2010. [92703]

Chris Grayling: Correspondence between the UK Statistics Authority and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), is published on the authority's website and has been placed in the Library:

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/index.html

Employment and Support Allowance: HIV Infection

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he *(a)* last met and *(b)* next plans to meet representatives of HIV organisations to discuss ways of improving the work capability assessment handbook and other guidance material used by Atos. [92774]

Chris Grayling: Ministers and officials hold regular meetings about the work capability assessment (WCA) with a range of stakeholders including those representing people with HIV. The National Aids Trust were represented at ministerial launch of the second independent review of the WCA on 24 November 2011. The National Aids Trust are also part of the group of stakeholders Professor Harrington has asked to look at the way the WCA accounts for fluctuating conditions. Their report was submitted to the Department during late November and we are considering these proposals closely.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will ensure that HIV awareness training is delivered to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Atos. [92775]

Chris Grayling: The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) trains its staff in the skills required to support a range of customers and claimants and to respect their individual needs. This approach ensures that our employees are equipped to deal with a diverse set of circumstances while treating everyone as an individual.

The learning programme for DWP focuses on raising awareness of the claimants' personal circumstances and also recognises that disabilities and health conditions can affect individuals in different ways and will change over time.

(a) DWP staff receive learning which covers excellent customer service, diversity and customer needs. This learning deals with the wide range of circumstances that our claimants may have, some less obvious than others, and stresses how important it is to look for signs where the claimant does not give us this information directly and to offer appropriate support.

A number of job roles within DWP, including front-facing staff, visiting officers and decision makers undertake training which raises awareness of HIV-related illness and how this affects individuals. Specifically, an event called 'Raising the Game' is aimed at elevating staffs awareness of disability and perceptions of disabled people. This national event includes information on HIV and AIDS.

All DWP staff have access to information about HIV through guidance on the DWP intranet.

(b) All Atos health care professionals receive an evidence-based protocol on HIV/AIDS as part of their new entrant training. In addition they have access to a learning set on HIV/AIDs as part of the Atos programme of continuing medical education.

Employment Schemes: Third Sector

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he intends to publish data on the level of referrals to voluntary and community sector providers under the Work programme; how often such data will be published; and if he will make a statement. [92702]

Chris Grayling: Voluntary and community sector providers delivering the Work programme are represented at all levels i.e. as prime providers and as tier one, and tier two, supply chain partners. The Department has no plans to publish data for referrals below prime provider level or to release information by sector.

Work programme official statistics, including referrals data, will be published for the first time on 21 February 2012 with subsequent publications published quarterly, and will be prepared in accordance with the code of practice for official statistics.

The Department for Work and Pensions has commissioned a consortium led by the Institute for Employment Studies (IES) to undertake an independent evaluation of the Work programme. Evaluation work started in autumn 2011 and will conclude in 2014.

New Deal Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual contract value of the flexible new deal was in each contract package area between October 2009 and the close of the programme. [92701]

Chris Grayling: The information you requested is contained in table 1 as follows, which shows annual contract values for each flexible new deal contract package area (CPA) from October 2009 to the close of the programme.

Table 1: Flexible new deal spend by contract package area and year

Spend £ million

CPA	*Districts*	*October 2009 to September 2010*	*October 2010 to termination*
CPA01	Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde; Edinburgh, Lothian and borders	37.3	17.9
CPA02	North East Yorkshire and the Humber; Tees Valley	44.8	22.6
CPA03	Greater Manchester Central; Greater Manchester West and East	41.7	21.6
CPA04	Derbyshire; South Yorkshire	38.6	19.6
CPA05	South East Wales, North and Mid Wales	19.7	10.3
CPA06	Coventry and Warwickshire; The Marches; Staffordshire	39.9	15.9
CPA07	Leicestershire and Northamptonshire; Nottinghamshire	40.2	21.3
CPA08	Cambridgeshire and Suffolk; Lincolnshire and Rutland; Norfolk	34.7	16.8
CPA09	Birmingham and Solihull	43.1	15.7
CPA10	Black Country	31.0	17.4
CPA11	South West Wales, South Wales Valleys	20.4	11.8
CPA12	Central London; Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	55.1	24.6
CPA13	Surrey and Sussex; Kent	46.8	21.4
CPA14	Devon and Cornwall	12.8	7.0
All		505.8	244.0

Source:
DWP accounting system.

The costs to termination includes spending on exit costs due to the early termination of flexible new deal contracts arising from roll-out of the new Work programme. Negotiations with two service providers have not yet been concluded and therefore the final figures may change.

Pensioners: Housing Benefit

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of social housing tenants likely to be affected by the proposed changes to housing benefit relating to under-occupancy who will be pensioners. [92963]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

The introduction of size criteria from 2013/14 for housing benefit claimants living in the social rented sector will only affect working-age claimants.

The age threshold for distinguishing working-age from pension-age for benefit purposes is generally based upon the qualifying age for pension credit. This age threshold is gradually increasing over time. A small number of claimants over this age threshold may choose to claim a working-age benefit, such as income-based jobseeker's allowance instead of pension credit. These claimants would also be treated as working-age for housing benefit purposes.

For couples currently claiming housing benefit, both the claimant and their partner need to be under the qualifying age for pension credit to be treated as working-age. When universal credit is introduced, if either member in a couple is under the qualifying age for pension credit then the couple would be treated as working-age. They would then be expected to access universal credit rather than pension credit.

It is intended that those already in receipt of pension credit at the point of change will be protected, and continue to receive pension credit as long as they continue to meet the other qualifying conditions.

Unemployed People: Mental Illness

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the assessment of mental health disorders amongst people undergoing return-to-work interviews at jobcentres. [92106]

Chris Grayling: I am not aware of any representations in relation to the specific question asked. However, it is Jobcentre Plus policy to develop its people in the skills required to support a range of customers with a variety of health conditions, including mental health conditions. This approach ensures that they are equipped to deal with a diverse set of circumstances whilst treating customers as individuals. Skilled employment advisers look at the interaction between the person, the job and an individual's ability, advisers ensure that job goals relate to the persons' abilities and that work solutions are sought which overcome any barriers a customer might face in a particular job.

All Jobcentre Plus staff who require a basic introduction to mental illness and working with customers with a diagnosis of mental illness have the opportunity to attend a one day event which discusses what mental illness is, how it is viewed, and provides an understanding of the mental illness spectrum.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants undertaking return-to-work interviews have *(a)* indicated they have ongoing mental health disorders, *(b)* subsequently been placed on jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* appealed against a decision to place them on jobseeker's allowance; and what the outcome of such appeals was in each of the last 18 months. [92108]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on which date he expects all applications for in-work support to be for universal credit rather than tax credits. [92700]

Chris Grayling: The universal credit migration approach published on 1 November set out how DWP will start to take new claims to universal credit from October 2013 and that new claims to the current benefits and credits will gradually be phased out, with claims to tax credits ending in April 2014.

Work continues with HMRC and local authorities to understand the precise timing and detail of how this will work, but this approach will ensure that universal credit is phased in safely from October 2013, minimising the risk to claimants.

Once agreed, the DWP will keep the approach under regular review as it recognises that this needs to be flexible enough the respond to national and local circumstances as they change in the years before the migration to universal credit is concluded in 2017.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it is his policy that tenants should normally submit their documents by post rather than over the counter when making applications for universal credit. [92704]

Chris Grayling: My Department is currently working on its plans for gathering the evidence required to support a universal credit claim, and is yet to reach a conclusion on this issue.

Work Capability Assessment

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many stream 2 referrals were made in relation to Atos Healthcare professionals in the last year for which figures are available. [92427]

Chris Grayling: Atos has received inquiries from the GMC relating to 19 doctors during 2011 that were categorised as stream 2 by the GMC.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising: Abortion Services

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what powers he has to oversee advertisements for abortion services by for-profit organisations before they are broadcast; and if he will make a statement. [92151]

Mr Vaizey: The advertising rule changes recently announced relate to the provision of post-conception advice services not abortion services.

The controls on the broadcast advertising of post-conception advice services are the responsibility of the advertising regulators, Ofcom, the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP) and the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). These bodies are independent of Government and they set the standards for all broadcast advertising.

The Government have no powers to review advertisements before they are broadcast.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92838]

John Penrose: No contracts have been agreed with either *(a)* private hire vehicle or *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010.

Work Experience

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what work experience or traineeship schemes his Department offers to minority groups. [92742]

John Penrose: This Department provided two students with a two-week work experience placement in 2011, as part of the Whitehall Internship Scheme which provides internships and work experience for people from under-represented groups, including black, Asian and ethnic minority communities. We are aiming to offer the same opportunities this year to students in the scheme.

Historic Buildings

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps the Government has taken to encourage the public to visit historic buildings since May 2010. [91452]

John Penrose: English Heritage promotes access and visiting to over 400 historic sites—from castles to country houses—using advertising, public relations, social media and other forms of marketing communication. In 2010-11, English Heritage sites attracted 5.5 million visitors. Its significant thematic events programme, which includes historical re-enactments amongst a broader range of activities, is an important part of attracting visitors. Additionally, its membership programme now involves around 800,000 individuals, with this number continuing to grow. Members receive special publications including a handbook of all English Heritage sites, a members' magazine called, Heritage Today and a dedicated all year events programme.

Historic Buildings: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps the Government has taken to promote the preservation of historic buildings in the West Midlands since May 2010. [91451]

John Penrose: In the West Midlands, English Heritage provided £1.35 million in 2010-11 and £1.39 million in 2011-12 towards the preservation of historic buildings, monuments and landscapes.

English Heritage has published a West Midlands Heritage at Risk Register each year since 2008: the most recent edition was released in October 2011. Throughout the year English Heritage works with a number of partners to move heritage assets off the register. For the first time, in 2011 English Heritage published a list of priority sites—important heritage at risk sites in the West Midlands where it will focus its resources to secure their future.

Since 2002 English Heritage has co-ordinated the production of Heritage Counts West Midlands—the annual report on the state of the historic environment—on behalf of the local historic environment sector. Since May 2010, two editions of this annual publication have raised awareness about the work of a wide range of public, voluntary and charitable organisations from across the heritage sector. The 2011 West Midlands region Heritage Counts

http://hc.english-heritage.org.uk/content/pub/2011/hc-2011-west-midlands.pdf

reports that in the region there are 1,423 Scheduled Monuments, 615 Grade I Listed Buildings, 2,144 Grade II* Listed Buildings and 31,481 Grade II Listed Buildings. It also states that Heritage Lottery Fund made awards worth £12.8 million in 2010-11.

Nearly 310,500 people visited English Heritage's staffed sites in the West Midlands in 2010-11.

Olympic Games 2012: Northern Ireland

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the recognition of Northern Ireland in the name of the UK squad for the London 2012 Olympic Games; and what discussions he has had with the British Olympic Association on that matter. [92190]

Hugh Robertson: There have been no recent representations. The issue was raised in a paper at the Sports Cabinet in February 2011, following which the Welsh Minister for Heritage, in his capacity as Chair of the meeting, wrote on behalf of the Sports Cabinet to ask the British Olympic Association (BOA) to consider changing the name and branding of Team GB to better reflect the whole of the UK.

PhonepayPlus

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on how many companies were investigated by PhonepayPlus in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [92450]

Mr Vaizey: Information of this nature is not held by the Department. PhonepayPlus is independent from Government and delivers the day-to-day regulation of Premium Rate Services (PRS) on behalf of Ofcom, under the terms of the Communications Act 2003.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many complaints his Department received about PhonepayPlus in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [92451]

Mr Vaizey: No complaints have been received. Ofcom has responsibility and accountability for the regulation of premium rate services under the terms of the Communications Act 2003 and has designated PhonepayPlus to deliver the day-to-day regulation through their code of practice.

RTE: Northern Ireland

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress he has made on the memorandum of understanding between the UK and Ireland on the availability of RTE in Northern Ireland. [92543]

Mr Vaizey: Considerable progress has been made in facilitating the provision of the Irish television services, RTE1, RTE2 and TG4 in Northern Ireland since the signing, on 1 February 2010, of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of UK and Ireland aimed at providing a framework for co-operation on broadcasting issues in Northern Ireland.

RTE and TG4 are currently in the process of forming a not-for-profit joint venture that will be responsible for the procurement and installation of the transmission facilities to deliver RTE1, RTE2 and TG4 in Northern Ireland. Both Governments have reached agreement on the technical standards to be used for transmitting these services from transmitters in Northern Ireland, and the frequency plans for these transmitters have been agreed internationally.

World War I

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps he has taken to *(a)* publish a register of and *(b)* protect war memorials and other monuments to those who died in World War One; [91981]

(2) if he will include the protection, restoration and promotion of memorials and other monuments in his plans to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. [91990]

John Penrose: The United Kingdom Inventory of War Memorials, based at the Imperial War Museum, is working to compile a record of all war memorials in the UK and to promote their appreciation, use and preservation. Further details are available at:

http://www.ukniwm.org.uk/

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is taking forward plans for a War Memorial Action Group (WMAG) to consider the recording, understanding and protection and repair of war memorials. The membership of the WMAG will comprise DCMS, funders, heritage organisations and representatives of the local and voluntary sectors.

Around 1,200 war memorials are listed or scheduled and subject to the protections afforded by those designation regimes. In addition, English Heritage is working in partnership with local authorities, the police, the Crown Prosecution Service and concerned local groups on the Heritage Crime Programme. This programme aims to protect vulnerable buildings and sites, including war memorials, from all threats, particularly metal theft and criminal damage.

English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation, in association with the War Memorials Trust, have provided over £757,000 for the repair and conservation of free-standing war memorials in England. Furthermore, this Department's Memorial Grant Scheme makes grants equivalent to the value added tax incurred by charities and faith groups in erecting, maintaining or repairing public memorials, including war memorials. HLF has also launched a new initiative to encourage applications for projects related to the centenaries of the First World War.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* the European Commission, *(b)* its counterparts in other EU member states and *(c)* representatives of the agriculture sector on the future of agri-environment schemes linking greening measures to payments; and if she will make a statement. [91922]

Mr Paice: The European Commission published proposals to reform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on 12 October 2011. We are actively engaged in discussions with the Commission to understand and clarify how the proposals will impact on those directly affected by the CAP, including the proposals on 'greening'. We are also in discussion with other Member States with similar interests.

The Department holds regular formal and informal discussions with representatives of the agricultural and other sectors on a whole range of CAP Reform issues.

On 12 December 2011 we published a discussion paper in England seeking views from farmers, environmental groups, rural communities, non-governmental organisations and other interested parties on how these proposals may impact on the different sectors affected by the CAP. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are undertaking separate consultation activities. All these views will inform the UK's negotiating position.

The discussion paper specifically asks for views on the 'greening' proposal:

whether it would provide environmental benefits; whether it should be compulsory;

what land should be targeted in a farm's ecological focus area; and

whether organic farms should be exempt from the proposed requirement.

Bees: Pesticides

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department is carrying out on the mechanisms by which honey bees are exposed to agricultural pesticides; and if she will make a statement. [90659]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has funded research on the potential impact of pesticides on honey bees, through direct or indirect exposure, both from wide scale professional use in agriculture and other sectors, and from home-garden use. Information can be found on the science and research project database on DEFRA's website. Research on the impact of chemicals on the learning capacity and performance of honey bees is being carried out under the Insect Pollinators Initiative, which is a joint initiative between DEFRA, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Natural Environment Research Council, the Scottish Executive and the Wellcome Trust.

The rigorous process for authorisation of pesticides protects human health and the environment, including honey bees, providing products are used in accordance with the authorisation. The pesticides regulator, the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD), is involved with the development of bee risk assessment methodology. The CRD will continue to monitor research and developments in other EU member states and elsewhere for relevance to the UK. Government scientists are involved in a number of major international initiatives, such as the European Commission's plan for Honeybee Health, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Pesticides Effects on Insect Pollinators initiative and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry's work on the pesticides risk assessment for pollinators (honey bees and non-Apis bees).

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many confirmed breakdowns of bovine tuberculosis were recorded in the area covered by the random badger culling trials in the year following the last proactive cull of badgers; and how many such breakdowns were recorded in the same area in the previous year. [87788]

Mr Paice: During the lifetime of the randomised badger culling trial, proactive culling of badgers led to a 23% reduction in bovine TB incidence in cattle herds in the culled areas when compared to survey-only areas. However, there was a 25% increase in incidence in the surrounding 2km of un-culled ring adjacent to proactively culled areas when compared to survey-only areas.

More detailed results from this analysis can be found in the scientific paper by Christl Donnelly and colleagues available at:

http://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712(07)00071-9/fulltext

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how cases of bovine tuberculosis have been recorded in the last 12 months for which figures are available after a proactive cull of badgers; and how many such cases were recorded in the previous 12 months. [87789]

Mr Paice: Ongoing monitoring since the end of the randomised badger culling trial has shown that the positive impacts on herd breakdowns within the culled areas were maintained for at least six years after culling stopped and that the negative effect on herd breakdowns in the surrounding areas had disappeared by 1.5 years after culling stopped. When cattle TB incidence figures from the period after culling are included, the benefits of proactive culling are greater than those observed during the trial itself.

The latest scientific paper published on these results analyses cattle breakdown rates from the time of the first cull to four years after the last cull. Over this period, there was a 28.7% reduction in TB cattle herd incidence in proactively culled areas,

and TB herd incidence within the 2km-wide ring around the culling areas was comparable with that in survey-only areas. Data collection in these areas is ongoing, and the most recent update shows a reduction in TB incidence in cattle due to culling persists up to six years after the last cull.

More details of this analysis can be found in the scientific paper available at:

http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0009090

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of progress in developing a useable vaccine for bovine TB. [91782]

Mr Paice: An injectable badger vaccine is available for use on prescription. We are working hard to develop an injectable vaccine for cattle and an oral badger vaccine, but there are still significant technical, practical and legal issues to overcome before these vaccines will be available It is not possible to say when they will be ready to be deployed in the field.

Bracken

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department has issued on the effective control of bracken in upland areas. [91791]

Richard Benyon: Natural England, the Government's adviser on the natural environment, publishes guidance on the control of bracken, on DEFRA's behalf, which is available on Natural England's website and via its Wildlife Licensing Unit. The published guidance offers general advice on the control of bracken and also contains specific reference to its control in upland areas.

The Government are concerned about the EU decision not to approve asulam, as this is an important method of controlling bracken in upland areas. The Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate is in discussion with the manufacturer regarding a new submission to support EU approval of asulam.

British Waterways

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the likely cost of *(a)* repairs, *(b)* dredging and *(c)* pension liabilities in respect of British Waterways in the next 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [89479]

Richard Benyon: Repairs are an operational matter for British Waterways (BW), and will be a matter for the Canal & River Trust (CRT) once the assets and functions of BW in England and Wales are transferred to it. BW has a robust asset management process, enabling prioritisation of repairs which have the greatest impact on operations and health and safety. This asset management process will continue when the assets transfer to CRT.

Dredging is also an operational matter for BW and it applies a risk-based prioritisation to its maintenance expenditure. The Government require BW to operate and maintain waterways to standards that reflect use and prospects of use. BW estimates that the cost of clearing the current backlog of dredging would be approximately £40 million. BW has not set a timescale for dealing with the dredging backlog because it is subject to BW's need to prioritise expenditure on its major infrastructure assets and therefore it is not possible to confirm which dredging works will remain outstanding when the charity is vested. However, BW prioritises dredging at locations that cause particular boating constraints. Once BW's assets and functions are transferred to CRT, it will be a matter for the Trust to prioritise expenditure on the operation and maintenance of the waterways.

With regard to pension liabilities, the last triennial valuation of the BW pension fund was carried out by the Scheme Actuary on 31 March 2010. The actuarial valuation of the British Waterways Pension Fund pension deficit was £65.6 million. No formal valuation has been prepared since March 2010, although estimated updates have been prepared by the Scheme Actuary for the pension fund Trustees.

The Government are negotiating a long term funding agreement with the Trustees of CRT. Those negotiations are considering a range of issues which could impact on funding to maintain the canal network, including the costs of repairs and maintenance and future liabilities arising from CRT's pension arrangements.

The outcome of the negotiations will be announced before the Government lay the necessary order under the Public Bodies Act to transfer British Waterways' functions to CRT.

Dairy Farming

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the dairy industry on her Department's support for the industry. [91978]

Mr Paice: In recent months I have met with representatives of dairy farmers, processors and retailers on a number of occasions. On 23 November, I chaired the latest meeting of the Dairy Supply Chain Forum which includes key people from the whole supply chain. This is an important vehicle for encouraging progress with initiatives such as Dairy 2020 (considering how the industry can work together to secure a sustainable future), the Dairy Roadmap (managing environmental impacts), and a voluntary code of contractual best practice.

Renewable Energy

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department is on target to achieve its commitment to generating 15 per cent. of energy from renewable sources by 2020; and what recent assessment she has made of progress towards meeting this commitment. [92680]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

In December 2011 we submitted our first Progress Report to the European Commission, as required under the Renewable Energy Directive. This shows that at the end of 2010 (the latest data available) 3.3% of our energy came from renewable sources, and that we are currently on track to meet our first interim target of 4% over 2011-12. The Progress Report can be downloaded from our website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/renewable_ener/renewable_ener.aspx

Droughts: East of England

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the *(a)* risk of drought and *(b)* recent dry weather conditions in (i) Essex and (ii) the east of England; and what assessment she has made of the effect of such weather conditions on the region's farmers and agricultural sector. [91921]

Richard Benyon: The east of England received 71% of the normal long term average rainfall for 2011, making it the driest year since 1921. The rainfall we have had so far in January should help to start easing the situation for Essex and other areas in the east of England in the short-term to enable farmers to begin refilling their reservoirs.

The Environment Agency's Drought Prospects report was published in December and is currently being updated. It has highlighted that even with average rainfall over the winter and spring, there is unlikely to be a full recovery from drought conditions during 2012, and this may cause significant agricultural impacts. There is a high possibility that without above average rainfall there will be voluntary and formal abstraction restrictions for Essex rivers in late spring/summer.

Dogs: Tapeworm

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the EU derogation for echinococcus multilocularis still applies to the UK; and what measures are in place to prevent dogs from bringing this infection into the UK. [92030]

Mr Paice: The UK has successfully argued to maintain its controls against the tapeworm echinococcus multilocularis. From 1 January 2012 import controls relating to this tapeworm have been implemented under EU Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 1152/2011. This regulation lays down the tapeworm import conditions which pet dogs must comply with when being moved into the UK from other countries. Under these rules, all dogs must be treated by a vet against tapeworm not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours (1-5 days) before its scheduled arrival time in the UK.

The treatment window of 1-5 days ensures that the risk of this tapeworm entering the UK from pets remains low. The slightly wider treatment window under the new rules balances the need to manage risks in a proportionate way, while helping to increase compliance thereby reducing the risk of untreated animals entering the UK.

Pet dogs moving to the UK from Ireland, Malta and Finland do not have to meet the tapeworm import conditions as those countries have submitted evidence to the EU Commission to confirm they, like the UK, are tapeworm free.

Further information for pet owners on the revised pet travel scheme rules is available on the DEFRA website.

Eggs: EU Law

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to how many companies she has written on ensuring that eggs are sourced from production systems which comply with EU Council Directive 1999/74/EC; and how many such companies have not responded. [91766]

Mr Paice: In the autumn of last year I wrote to the Food and Drink Federation and the British Hospitality Association to ask them whether their members could follow the British Retail Consortium's lead and sign up to a voluntary approach to not source conventional caged eggs after 1 January 2012, when the ban on keeping laying hens in conventional cages came into force.

In addition, I also wrote to Compass who hold a number of Government contracts for catering, and DEFRA officials wrote to the major processors to ask the same question. The list of companies who have made this voluntary pledge is published on the DEFRA website.

Environment Protection

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress she has made on the implementation of the measures contained in the Natural Environment White Paper. [91982]

Richard Benyon: The Natural Environment White Paper includes 92 commitments for action. Seven months after publication, seven commitments are complete and good progress has been made including: awarding Local Nature Partnership capacity building funding; selecting 20 Nature Improvement Area applications to go to the second stage of the competition; and launching both the Ecosystem Markets Task Force and the Green Infrastructure Partnership.

Environment Protection: Finance

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 10 categories of climate change mitigation measures received the highest level of Government funding in each year since 2005; and how much funding was allocated in each case. [91636]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA's Adapting to Climate Change programme works across Government Departments to provide evidence, analysis and tools to advise, support and challenge policy development, delivery and prioritisation.

DEFRA's adaptation-related measures span many policy areas, from farming and the food sector to flood management. The policy area will attribute spending to adaptive measures from its wider budget; however, this level of information is not held centrally.

DEFRA's accounts are available on its website:

(1) DEFRA annual report and accounts, 2010-11:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/reports/

(2) DEFRA departmental reports for previous years:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/reports/annual.htm

As impacts of climate change affect all areas of life, Government Departments build the impacts of a changing climate in to what they do and deliver a range of adaptation measures into their own policies and programmes.

Government Departments prepare their own annual accounts that contain funding details. Information on each Department's Adaption Plan can be found under "departmental adaptation plans" in the "government" section of the Defra website.

Fisheries

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to ensure the illegal fishing allegations made against the Spanish Vidal family network in October 2011 are investigated by the European Commission and the Spanish Government. [91856]

Richard Benyon: Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a major threat to the world's fish stocks, its marine biodiversity and the livelihoods and security of coastal communities. I have not intervened in this matter, but would certainly expect the Commission to establish the facts behind the allegations as a matter of urgency, and to take swift action should wrongdoing be found to have occurred. The new EU Control Regulation, 1224/2009, makes clear that the payment of funds to member states is conditional upon respect by the member states of their obligation to ensure compliance with and enforcement of the rules of the common fisheries policy. It also provides the Commission with the necessary powers to suspend or cancel financial assistance where the effectiveness of the measures being financed is, or is likely to be, affected by non-compliance with those rules.

Flood Control: Coastal Areas

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislative proposals she is considering to reduce levels of bureaucracy affecting landowners undertaking repairs to sea walls. [92033]

Richard Benyon: Landowners or others wishing to undertake repairs to sea walls or other flood defences may need to seek a flood defence consent before doing so. We are considering integrating flood defence consents into the Environmental Permitting framework to reduce burdens on applicants, including landowners, and allow regulators to target resources at higher risk activities.

Flood Risk Management

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 140-1WS, on flood risk management, what meetings *(a)* have taken place since 19 December 2011 and *(b)* are planned between her Department and HM Treasury to discuss progress on ensuring universal availability of flood insurance from July 2013. [92167]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and HM Treasury have had regular meetings regarding the future of flood insurance beyond June 2013, which is when the current agreement with insurers expires. We will continue to meet regularly as we consider options over the winter months, with the aim of making further announcements in the spring. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings. The Government remain committed to making sure flood insurance remains widely available.

Food Industry Support

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the economic contribution of the food and drink industry; and what steps she is taking to support the sector. [91912]

Mr Paice: The farming, food and drink sector plays a significant part in our economy. It is worth nearly £85 billion to the UK economy and employs 3.5 million people. Comparing 2010 with 2009, all sectors of the food chain have seen year on year increases in productivity, resulting in a 0.8% rise in total factor productivity of the food chain.

A sustainable food and farming industry is at the forefront of DEFRA's aims. We are working to help increase the competitiveness and resilience of farms, fisheries and the whole food chain to ensure a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply of food, for example through the green food project and the recent growth review. The Government is committed to working closely with industry stakeholders to boost exports, promote innovation and encourage further growth, particularly among SMEs through the Agri-food and Drink Exports Forum and the Green Food Project Steering Group. Across the food chain we all have a role in promoting efficiency and competitiveness, sharing research and knowledge to promote best practice, and eliminating waste.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), recently attended the launch of the Food and Drink Federation's 20/20 Vision for growth of the industry and DEFRA will be working with them to help deliver the ambition.

We have recently published an action plan to promote exports and we will be holding an Innovation for Growth summit in March to raise awareness of the resources for innovation. We will also be holding a competition aimed at helping SMEs carry out pilots or feasibility studies for their innovative ideas.

Forestry Commission

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether she plans to dissolve the Forestry Commission of Great Britain after the removal of Forestry Commission Wales; and whether she has any plans to seek to reclaim any of the costs of any such dissolution from the Welsh Government; [91771]

(2) what steps she plans to take to maintain links with Forestry Commission Wales to ensure a unified approach to biosecurity in the UK after its removal from the Forestry Commission of Great Britain; [91772]

(3) what plans she has for future funding of the shared services provided by the Forestry Commission of Great Britain after the removal of Forestry Commission Wales; [91773]

(4) whether the Forestry Commission of Great Britain will incur any costs as a result of the removal of Forestry Commission Wales; and what estimate she has made of the level of any such costs. [91774]

Mr Paice: The Welsh Government have recently announced their intention to form a single environmental body. This is a matter for the Welsh, but we will be looking to ensure that there is an orderly transfer of work, and that the Welsh Government fund all costs associated with the change, the details of which have still to be determined. It will be important that future working arrangements ensure close working on biosecurity risks and other issues of common interest. The Independent Panel on Forestry is currently reviewing forestry policy in England, including the role of the Forestry Commission in delivering this. The Government will consider its advice before reaching any conclusions on the operation of Forestry Commission GB.

Livestock: Disease Control

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on measures to control the spread of plasmid borne antibiotic resistance in food producing animals. [91762]

Mr Paice: The Government have long promoted the responsible use of all veterinary medicines and works closely with the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) Alliance and the British Veterinary Association.

Plasmid borne antibiotic resistance is not a new phenomenon and has been described for many years. The measures appropriate for the control of plasmid borne antibiotic resistance include those generally applied for the control of all types of antibiotic resistance.

Snares

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish the report on the extent of use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales. [92259]

Mr Paice: We hope to publish the report in February 2012.

Sustainable Development: Business

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the introduction of mandatory sustainability reporting for companies. [89555]

Mr Paice: For quoted companies, the Companies Act 2006 already requires that the business review, which is part of a company's annual report, must include information about environmental matters (including the impact of the organisation's business on the environment). This is provided to the extent necessary to give an understanding of the development, performance or position of the firm's business.

As stated in the Natural Environment White Paper, we will publish new guidance detailing how companies should measure and report their corporate environmental impacts this year.

Territorial Waters

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she last discussed with her EU counterparts UK control over its 12-nautical mile territorial waters. [91794]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister, I have recently had discussions on fisheries management arrangements concerning a reformed common fisheries policy (CFP) at November Council, and in the course of other meetings in Brussels during December, with the European Commission, members of the UK and European Parliaments, and ministerial colleagues of other member states.

As negotiations continue, I will press our case for reform, particularly around the decentralisation of the CFP, thus allowing member states to agree the measures appropriate for the fisheries they share and enabling them to manage marine resources more effectively through better integration of fisheries management with other marine policies.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the contribution by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Natural Environment and Fisheries of 14 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 472-81, what progress her Department has made on negotiations for reform of the Common Fisheries Policy to restore UK control over its 12 nautical mile territorial waters. [91845]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister I am continuing to seek, through negotiations on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, a simplified and decentralised decision-making framework. As part of this I am pressing for clear arrangements providing for member states to take non-discriminatory measures for the conservation and management of fish stocks and to minimise the effect of fishing on the conservation of marine ecosystems within their 12 mile limits. Such measures should apply to all vessels fishing within that zone, no matter what member state they are from.

Trees

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tree planting hectares have been *(a)* planted and *(b)* cut down by the Forestry Commission in the last five years. [92350]

Mr Paice: In the last five years (2006-07 to 2010-11) 400 hectares of new woodland were planted and 9,800 hectares were restocked by planting or natural regeneration on the public forest estate in England by the Forestry Commission.

Information on felling areas which is not held centrally could be provided only at disproportionate cost; however, unless designated for an alternative land use, restocking after clear felling is normally carried out within two to three planting seasons.

The entire public forest estate has been independently certified for sustainable forest management, which means that the clear felling and restocking practices have been independently audited.

Veterinary Medicine: Fees and Charges

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department provides financial assistance to assist *(a)* individuals and *(b)* farms with meeting the cost of veterinary fees; and if she will make a statement. [92147]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not provide financial assistance to either individuals or farmers to meet the cost of veterinary fees.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the average veterinary fee for *(a)* individuals and *(b)* farms in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [92150]

(2) what information her Department holds on average veterinary costs to farms in each year since 1997 by type of farm. [92219]

Mr Paice: No such records are held by DEFRA and to research and obtain this detailed information would incur a disproportionate cost. There is no statutory control on veterinary fees and as such it is not for Government to intervene in this matter. It is for individual customers to decide whichever veterinary practice most suits their needs.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on veterinary costs; what response she gave to each such representation; and if she will make a statement. [92220]

Mr Paice: DEFRA receives a wide range of representations on veterinary and other issues which, where appropriate, we seek to take account of in formulating policies. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations unless they form part of a formal consultation exercise.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contribution her Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if she will make a statement. [92285]

Richard Benyon: Civil society organisations make a vital contribution to the delivery of many of DEFRA's objectives and commitments, and our work with the sector is underpinned by the principles set out in the Compact. These principles have been disseminated to all staff in core-DEFRA who are likely to have contact with representatives of civil society.

Following the publication of DEFRA's refreshed Business Plan later this year, we will take steps to improve our understanding of how effectively DEFRA is complying with Compact principles, and to ensure that the Compact is systematically embedded in the way DEFRA works with civil society.

Waste: Landfill

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of UK waste have been transported to landfill sites abroad since May 2010. [91974]

Richard Benyon: Under the UK Plan for Shipments of Waste, exports of waste for disposal, which includes landfill, are prohibited with very few exceptions. No exports for landfill are recorded.

Water Abstraction

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions have taken place between her Department, the Environment Agency and farmers on water abstraction. [92009]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and the Environment Agency officials met agriculture representatives on 19 December 2011 to consider the latest position on the ongoing drought conditions. They discussed the latest Drought Prospects report, and how low groundwater and river flows are limiting normal winter abstraction in drought-affected areas. The Environment Agency advised that it was responding to help licence holders revise their licences where water was available for abstraction.

The impact of these conditions on farming was outlined by the industry representatives and the options available to farmers were discussed.

DEFRA and the Environment Agency also had dialogue with the National Farmers Union and Country Land and Business Association on water abstraction issues in relationship to development of the Water White Paper: Water for Life.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to propose changes to the regulations relating to water abstraction in response to the long-term effects of dry weather and drought conditions on farmers. [92010]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency is reviewing its regulatory position to identify any changes that it can make, without detriment to other abstractors or the environment, to assist farmers during the ongoing dry weather.

DEFRA met with representatives of the agricultural community on 19 December 2011, and the Environment Agency is working closely with the farmers affected by drought to help them access water where it is available, and where appropriate, to change abstraction licences.

The Water White Paper, 'Water for Life', has announced the Government's intention to reform the abstraction licensing regime over the longer term. The new regime will be designed to support adaptation to climate change by abstractors, including farmers.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to simplify the process of application from farmers to vary *(a)* water abstraction licences and *(b)* arrangements for water abstraction. [92011]

Richard Benyon: We will be looking at changes to water abstraction licences and arrangements for water abstraction while developing and implementing a reformed abstraction regime. This was outlined in the recently published Water White Paper: Water for Life.

The Environment Agency is committed to assisting farmers with abstraction licence variations brought on by the impacts of the current drought. Where this is appropriate, it will ensure the process is simplified to achieve prompt revisions for applicants.

Also the Environment Agency is encouraging farmers to come forward early if they have concerns for their water needs and will advise if more water is available. Where licence changes would affect others or involve significant risks to the environment, appropriate detail is required, but assistance is being provided to help with such urgent cases.

Water: Meters

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has estimated the average length of time for which water meters remain accurate. [92272]

Richard Benyon: Ofwat estimates that standard water meters last for approximately 15 years. Some "smart", meters can be activated (read) by customers pushing a button and this can shorten the battery life.

Weedkillers

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance she plans to issue to landowners on effective replacement selective herbicides in advance of the prohibition of asulam; [91806]

(2) what steps she can take to extend the use of asulam beyond 2012. [91846]

Richard Benyon: The EU prohibition on the use of asulam comes into operation at the end of 2012. Beyond this date it may be possible for the UK Government to issue emergency authorisations for the use of asulam if there are no alternative means of control available. The Chemicals Regulation Directorate has provided guidance to the Bracken Control Group, which is co-ordinating for interested parties on an application for an emergency authorisation for asulam for its key use for bracken control.

I understand that a current approval holder for asulam intends to make a further submission to the European Commission seeking approval of the substance. Since this submission has to be supported by additional scientific studies, a new submission is unlikely to be made soon.

There are currently no selective herbicides approved for use in the UK that could replace asulam for bracken control. I understand that some research has been conducted on several sulphonyl urea herbicides, but no applications for approval have yet been made. In some situations, non-selective herbicides or mechanical control may be appropriate ways to tackle bracken.

HEALTH

Bowel Cancer: Screening

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bowel cancer screenings have been carried out in each of the last three years. [92345]

Paul Burstow: The number of adequate screening tests for bowel cancer carried out in England as part of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme in each of the last three years can be found in the following table. An adequate screening test is one that produces a definitive result.

	Number of adequate tests
2008	1,033,429
2009	1,344,127
2010	1,868,658

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average cost to the public purse of a patient's cancer treatment. [92936]

Paul Burstow: We have made no estimate of the average cost to the public purse of the treatment a cancer patient receives. Cancer treatments can vary greatly from patient to patient, both in terms of the types of treatment they receive and the duration of those treatments.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to improve standards in residential care homes since May 2010. [91533]

Paul Burstow: Since October 2010, all providers of regulated activities, including care homes, have had to register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and meet 16 registration requirements governing essential levels of safety and quality. The CQC has a wide range of independent enforcement powers that it can use if it considers providers are not meeting the requirements.

The CQC is presently conducting the Dignity and Nutrition Inspection programme. Between March and June 2011, the CQC inspected care of older people on 100 national health service wards, focussing on dignity and nutrition. Between April and June this year, the CQC will inspect a further 50 hospitals. In addition, the care of older people in approximately 500 care homes will be inspected.

The Department has funded a £100,000 project in the residential care sector to improve and address medication issues within care homes. The work is being led by the National Care Forum, working as part of a wider cross-sector partnership, which includes the Royal Colleges and other professional leadership organisations.

The Department is also funding a project which is managed through the Social Care Institute for Excellence, under which Mental Capacity Act provider development managers are being used to provide advice on mental capacity issues across a network of care providers, including care homes.

Around two thirds of residents in care homes have some form of dementia. 'Living well with dementia in care homes' was identified as one of the Government's four key priorities for improving dementia care in our revised implementation plan, "Quality Outcomes for People with Dementia: Building on the work of the National Dementia Strategy (2010)". The plan sets out the Government's commitment to putting patients and the public first and improving health and social care outcomes for people with dementia and their carers.

Job Satisfaction

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of trends in staff responses on organisational objectives and purpose in his Department's Civil Service People Survey, October 2011; and if he will make a statement. [92193]

Mr Simon Burns: The results of the Department's people survey indicate that employee engagement has remained broadly level in a year of change. While response rates to questions related to 'organisational objectives and purpose' are down four percentage points on last year, 68% of staff responded positively to these questions. The Department is taking action based on the survey findings with a view to making improvements this year.

Depressive Illnesses: Medical Treatments

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to improve treatment for people with depression. [91884]

Paul Burstow: The Government committed in their mental health strategy, 'No Health Without Mental Health', a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, to investing around £400 million in completing the roll-out of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme over the spending review period. This will ensure that adults with depression and anxiety in all parts of England have access to a choice of psychological therapies.

Diabetes: Young People

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to assist young people with diabetes. [91887]

Paul Burstow: The majority of children and young people with diabetes have type 1 diabetes.

We are introducing a mandatory best practice tariff (BPT) for paediatric diabetes from April 2012, the aim of which is to enable access to consistent high quality management of diabetes. The new BFT is an annual payment that covers outpatient care from the date of discharge from hospital after the initial diagnosis of diabetes is made, until the young person is transferred to adult services at the age of 19. The components of the BPT have been developed and agreed with clinicians and NHS Diabetes.

The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) have published guidelines on the diagnosis and management of type 1 diabetes in children and young people. NHS Diabetes have also published a commissioning guide for diabetes services for children and young people. The guide includes an intervention map detailing all of the elements needed for the service as well as a contracting framework and service specification template. The guide is available at:

www.diabetes.nhs.uk/document.php?o=43

In 2009, NHS Diabetes also initiated the national Children and Young People Network, to address unwarranted variation in services for this group, and to improve the care and treatment they receive. The national network constitutes 12 clinical champions roughly representing the strategic health authority regions across England, led, funded and coordinated by NHS Diabetes.

Food Labelling

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to require the labelling of foods to encourage people to eat a healthier diet; [92536]

(2) whether he plans to consider the raw and cooked properties of foods when considering proposals for food labelling. [92582]

Anne Milton: Labelling rules are set at European Union level and a new EU Food Information Regulation came into force on 13 December 2011.

The regulation requires the provision of certain nutrition information (normally on the back of the packaging). It specifies that the nutrient information provided should be that of the food 'as sold' in its raw state but allows such information to be based on food after it has been prepared/cooked ("as consumed") instead, where this is useful to consumers, and provided that the preparation instructions are clearly given.

To supplement this information, the regulation also allows the voluntary repetition of the nutrients of particular concern to public health—energy, fat, saturated fat, salt and sugar—in a per portion format on the front of the pack. The Government will shortly be consulting on how they can work with businesses to bring more consistency to the format of this information and to increase its use across more food products.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92121]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not publish all replies to its freedom of information (FOI) requests on its website.

However, quarterly logs of the Department's FOI releases are published, along with some FOI answers where a policy team has chosen to provide this further detail.

These are all available in the same area of the Department's website at:

www.transparency.dh.gov.uk/category/foi/foi-releases/

In addition, the Department, has a publication scheme to provide information that is of wide public interest. This is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/Classesofinformation/DH_092400

The Department does not routinely collate the average time taken between responding to a request and the information being made available on its website. To establish this would incur disproportionate cost.

No time frame has been set by the Department between responding to a request and the information being made available on its website. However, officials will aim to undertake this task as quickly as possible.

Health Services: Detention Centres

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his intention that the NHS Commissioning Board will have responsibility for commissioning healthcare in immigration removal centres from April 2013. [92094]

Paul Burstow: The Department will assume policy responsibility for immigration removal centre (IRC) healthcare commissioning policy from the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) from 1 April 2012.

UKBA budgetary provision and commissioning responsibility for healthcare in IRCs will be transferred to the Department during 2012-13 and, subject to legislation, these responsibilities will be fully transferred to the National Health Service Commissioning Board by April 2014.

Health Services: Learning Disabled

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to provide training for NHS medical staff to improve services for patients with learning disabilities. [91883]

Paul Burstow: The content and standard of health care training is the responsibility of the General Medical Council, the independent regulatory body for medical training in the United Kingdom.

However, the Department is currently undertaking a review of learning disabilities nursing in collaboration with the other devolved Administrations. The review has received evidence regarding the pre- and post-registration training of learning disabilities nurses. The report is due to be launched later this year.

Health Services: North East

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of model governance arrangements for pathfinder commissioning groups in the North East; and if he will make a statement. [92187]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department supported NHS North East in its work with local emerging clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to develop "Interim Governance Arrangements for Pathfinder CCGs". This document has been used to support local emerging CCGs to put in place robust governance arrangements that would enable them to operate with delegated authority from primary care trust boards and build experience of commissioning.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public engagement events were held by each pathfinder commissioning group in the North East in each month since January 2011. [92188]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on public engagement events held by emerging clinical commissioning groups is not centrally held.

Hypopituitarism

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* causes and *(b)* effects of post-traumatic hypopituitarism. [92776]

Paul Burstow: We have made no recent assessment of the causes, and effects, of post-traumatic hypopituitarism.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Sir Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage those primary care trusts who have suspended IVF funding to review their decision; and if he will make a statement. [92958]

Anne Milton: Primary care trusts are fully aware of their statutory commissioning responsibilities and the need to base commissioning decisions on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioner commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers. The national health service deputy chief executive, David Flory, wrote to primary care trust commissioners last year to highlight to those involved in commissioning fertility services the importance of having regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39.

Additionally, we support Infertility Network UK, a leading patient support organisation, to develop and promote standardised access criteria and to work in partnership with commissioners to encourage good practice in the provision of fertility services.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts have decommissioned IVF services in each of the last two years. [92463]

Anne Milton: The information is not held centrally.

NHS: Contracts

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS bodies commissioning services from any qualified provider will be required to conduct due diligence of the financial and commercial background of such providers before placing contracts. [91895]

Mr Simon Burns: Under any qualified provider, all providers will have to complete successfully the rigorous qualification process before signing the NHS standard contract and prior to delivering services. Commissioners will carry out checks on the financial and commercial standing of potential providers as part of the qualification process.

Nutrition: Health Education

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of his Department's provision of information on maintaining a healthy weight through healthy eating and exercise; [92520]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of Government initiatives in changing people's behaviour in respect of food. [92583]

Anne Milton: We are committed to building the evidence base on effective interventions to support people in improving their health, including in respect of diet, exercise and maintaining a healthy weight. Evaluation of Government initiatives forms a key part of this. For example, Change4Life aims to inspire a social movement to prevent people becoming overweight and. has a built-in programme of evaluation to monitor its effectiveness.

Organs: Donors

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish a pilot scheme for organ donation for those with rare blood types to enable organ donations to be used in exceptional circumstances without the need for consent from a family member if there is no record of opting out of organ donation. [92342]

Anne Milton: The national organ allocation scheme, administered by NHS Blood and Transplant, aims to improve outcomes, ensure equity of access to transplantation and to maximise the number of transplants performed. The allocation scheme is based very strongly on getting the best tissue match for the recipient. The scheme was substantially revised in April 2006 and further modified in 2010, and is constantly reviewed to provide the best outcomes for all patients. The Human Tissue Act 2004 and the Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 each requires consent or authorisation for all organ donations either by the deceased while alive or by the family after his or her death.

Pain

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people in the current personal health budget pilot have chronic pain as either *(a)* their primary condition or *(b)* as a consequence of the long-term condition for which they are receiving a personal health budget; [92546]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that people with chronic pain will be able to access personal health budgets in the absence of a quality outcomes framework for chronic pain. [92548]

Paul Burstow: Personal health budgets offer patients more control and choice over how their outcomes are met. They are currently being piloted across England. Over 2,700 people have been recruited into an independent evaluation programme. Around half of them will have personal health budgets; the remainder are in a control group. Although it is likely that many people with chronic pain (either as a primary condition or as a consequence of a long-term condition) are involved in the pilot, we do not yet know how many, or to what extent their needs are being supported through a personal health budget.

However, the evaluation team will gather information and report on the health needs that people have, including chronic pain. The final evaluation report is due in October 2012.

It is the Government's longer term aim to introduce a right to a personal health budget for people who would benefit from them, subject to the results of the evaluation of the pilot programme. This could include people with chronic pain. A number of anecdotal case studies from the pilot programme include people using personal health budgets to improve their pain control. These include people using their budgets to access services such as massage, hydrotherapy, or acupuncture.

Palliative Care

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the provision of palliative care services. [91885]

Paul Burstow: The Government have confirmed their commitment to improving quality and choice in palliative and end of life care in the White Paper 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS'. The Department's end of life care strategy provides a blueprint for improving these services for adults and we are pressing on with its implementation.

We are making progress in implementing the strategy. This includes: providing support for staff training and development in end of life care; completing pilots of locality registers (now called Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination Systems), which will allow all local services to co-ordinate care more effectively; introducing a national survey of the bereaved, to help us understand the experience for patients and carers; and establishing a national coalition of organisations, Dying Matters, to raise public awareness of issues around death, dying and bereavement. The 'End of Life Care Strategy Third Annual Report', which sets out progress in implementing the strategy, was published in September 2011. A copy has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_130239

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published a Quality Standard on end of life care for adults.

In. addition, we are undertaking work to develop a fairer funding system for palliative care, following on from the report of the independent Palliative Care Funding Review.

Palliative Care: Children

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department provides to parents of children with terminal illnesses. [91886]

Anne Milton: Many children and young people with terminal illnesses or life-limiting conditions will have complex needs over a number of years and therefore require specific and intensive support from parents and carers. This is why the Government recognise the vital contribution that carers of all ages make to society, and has taken action to support them.

We set out our priorities in 'Recognised, valued and supported, next steps for the Carers Strategy', a copy of which had already been placed in the Library, in November 2010 and are providing additional funding of £400 million to the national health service between 2011 and 2015 for carers' breaks.

The Government also made available £19 million during 2010-11 to support service development in the palliative care sector. A number of the funded projects focused on issues relating to parents and carers.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure increased funding for relationship advice and sexual health services for teenagers. [92319]

Anne Milton: Funding for local services is a matter for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), taking into account the needs of the local population. The amount spent by PCTs on sexual health services is not prescribed by the Department.

Improving sexual health by reducing unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections is very important, particularly for young people. "Improving outcomes and supporting transparency: A public health, outcomes framework for England 2013-16", which was published on 23 January 2012 includes indicators for both under-18 conceptions and Chlamydia diagnoses in 15 to 24-year-olds. A copy has already been placed in the Library. The Department will publish a new sexual health policy document in the spring.

Pregnancy: Drugs

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the prescription of diethylstilboestrol to pregnant women; and if he will take steps to identify and locate *(a)* women who were prescribed diethylstilboestrol and *(b)* the children of such women. [92145]

Mr Simon Burns: Diethylstilboestrol (DES) is an oestrogenic hormone formerly used in the treatment of threatened miscarriage. In 2002, the Department asked the Advisory Committee for Cervical Screening to consider the need for, and the potential effectiveness of, a publicity campaign to identify DES-exposed women and their children. The Committee advised that proactive campaigning would not help to identify women who are currently unaware of their DES exposure status and would serve only to create anxiety, as the vast majority of women in the United Kingdom have never been exposed to DES.

We have received a number of representations on this matter since 2002. These include 18 parliamentary questions and letters from hon. Members, 14 from members of the public and six applications under the Freedom of Information Act. These included questions relating to the number of women exposed to DES in utero, screening for cancer in those who had been exposed, efforts made to trace those who had been exposed, effects in male offspring who had been exposed, and further research relating to possible risks.

Skin Cancer

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of melanoma skin cancer there have been in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of treatment of this kind of cancer in that period. [92339]

Paul Burstow: The number of cases of melanoma in England and the estimated national health service expenditure on the treatment and management of skin cancer for the latest three-year period for which comparable data could be provided can be found in the following table.

The expenditure figures include both non-melanoma and malignant melanoma as it is not possible to break this figure down to identify expenditure on a particular type of skin cancer. It is also not currently possible to estimate expenditure on chemotherapy and radiotherapy by cancer type. Expenditure on these treatments is therefore included within the 'Cancers and Tumours—Other' category.

In addition, expenditure on some service areas or activities is excluded if it is not possible to make a reasonable estimation of expenditure by specific disease area. For this reason expenditure on general practitioner services, diagnostics and some outpatient services are excluded from estimates of expenditure on cancers and tumours.

Expenditure figures are from estimated England level programme budgeting data, which are calculated using primary, care trust and strategic health authority programme budgeting returns and Department resource accounts data. Figures also include an estimation of special health authority expenditure.

	Gases of melanoma[1]	*Cancers and tumours—skin*[2] *(£ million)*	*Cancers and tumours—other*[3] *(£ billion)*
2007-08	8,809	110	2.32
2008-09	9,695	100	2.39
2009-10	9,771	110	2.75

[1] Office of National Statistics
[2] Programme budgeting data
[3] Programme budgeting data

Skin Cancer: Drugs

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make available the skin cancer treatment drug ipilimumab in NHS facilities. [92340]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising ipilimumab (Yervoy) for the treatment of previously treated unresectable stage III or IV malignant melanoma and has not yet published its final guidance.

The manufacturer of ipilimumab has proposed a patient access scheme and the Department has agreed that the proposed scheme can be considered by NICE. NICE has indicated that the appraisal will now be referred back to its appraisal committee for further consideration.

NICE is an independent body and it would not be appropriate for Ministers to intervene in an ongoing technology appraisal.

In the absence of final NICE guidance on a drug, it is for local primary care trusts (PCTs) to make funding decisions based on an assessment of the available evidence. Where a cancer drug is not routinely funded by a PCT, patients may be able to access the drug through the Cancer Drugs Fund.

Smoking: Drugs

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has had any discussions with the *(a)* British Medical Association and *(b)* others on the effect on health of the Champix form of the anti-smoking drug varenicline. [92341]

Mr Simon Burns: Neither the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), nor his officials have had discussions with the British Medical Association about the anti-smoking drug varenicline (brand name Champix).

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), an executive agency of the Department, is responsible for ensuring that all medicines available in the United Kingdom are effective and are acceptably safe. The MHRA has actively participated, along with other European Union member states, in Europe-wide discussions of the benefits and risks of treatment with varenicline. These discussions have concluded that the benefits of stopping smoking using varenicline outweigh the known side-effects. The health benefits of stopping smoking are well recognised.

The MHRA continues to monitor closely the safety of varenicline. Emerging data on the benefits and risks of varenicline are carefully evaluated as they become available and updated prescribing guidance is issued as appropriate. MHRA has communicated information on the safety profile of varenicline to health care professionals in the UK via its monthly bulletin 'Drug Safety Update'. The target audience for this publication includes doctors (who are the main membership of the British Medical Association).

Social Services

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the difference between the number of people eligible for social care support in England and those receiving formal support from public or private sector agencies. [92393]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not made estimates of the difference between the number of people eligible for social care support in England and those receiving formal support from public or private sector agencies.

The Department acknowledges that unmet need is difficult to precisely define and measure. The eligibility framework issued by the Department seeks to support councils in prioritising funding on those with the highest need. The Government are clear that everyone who thinks they may be in need of care and support is entitled to an assessment, and if this assessment concludes that services are required to meet the person's assessed needs and the person qualifies under the means-test, services must be provided.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the prospects for using increased resources for social care to reduce avoidable emergency admissions and NHS costs; [92773]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the social care system on the financial sustainability of the NHS. [92938]

Paul Burstow: Effective partnership working and integration are key enablers in delivering against the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention challenge within the national health service, and supporting improved efficiency within social care. This includes ensuring that people do not stay in hospital longer than they need to.

The Department has put in place practical measures to support social care services, in the context of a challenging local government settlement, and to encourage improved joint working between primary care trusts (PCTs) and local authorities. In 2011-12, £648 million has been allocated to PCTs to transfer to councils for spending on social care services that also benefit health. The Department has been clear that PCTs and local authorities will need to work together closely in order to agree appropriate areas of social care investment, taking account of joint priorities identified by the joint strategic needs assessment for their local populations. Evidence from a survey of PCTs suggests that this funding is being used both to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital (through crisis response services, for example); and to ensure people are able to leave hospital quickly (through intermediate care and re-ablement services for example).

A further £150 million (rising to £300 million in 2012-13) has been allocated to PCTs for the development of post-discharge support and re-ablement services. There is local discretion over how this money is to be spent, but in a letter to the service the Department has been clear that:

> "This funding is intended specifically to develop current reablement capacity in councils, community health services, the independent and voluntary sectors, with the objective of ensuring rapid recovery from an acute episode and reducing people's dependency on social care services following discharge".

Finally in addition to these funding streams, the Department announced on 3 January 2012 that it was making a further £150 million available to PCTs, to transfer to local authorities for spending on social care. The Department has set out that this funding should be used to target delayed transfers of care which are attributable to social care services.

Social Services: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that children's needs are assessed as part of their parents' assessment by social services. [92361]

Paul Burstow: The Department issued best practice guidance on social care needs assessment, "Prioritising need in the context of Putting People First: A whole system approach to eligibility for social care", to local authorities in 2010. A copy has already been placed in the Library and it is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113154

The guidance includes the following:

> "Councils should identify any children or young people acting in a caring role and consider the impact on them. Community care packages should not rely on the input of an inappropriate level of care from a child or young person. In this respect, in addition to the provision of adult care assessment and support, councils should be prepared, to address their duty under the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. The Children Act 1989 also specifies the need to take the views and interests of children into account, In discharging these duties, it is essential that Councils take account of the cumulative effects of responsibilities of family members within the household and where necessary, adult and children's services should work together to protect children from having to undertake unreasonable levels of care."

In the course of assessing an individual's needs, councils should recognise that adults who have parenting responsibilities for a child under 18-years may require help with these responsibilities.

Stem Cells

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what stem cell trials are being carried out in the UK; and what companies are involved in these. [92343]

Mr Simon Burns: There are currently 10 trials of stem cell-based medicinal products for which clinical trial authorisations have been granted by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), of which two have commercial sponsors. The MHRA cannot name sponsors because they are legally obliged to keep this information confidential.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92283]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department signed up to the renewed Compact published in December 2010. It is committed to the principles of the Compact and pursues a "compact compliant" way of working in its business with civil society organisations (CSOs).

Over the last year the Department has taken the following actions to ensure the Compact is being implemented. It:

has a nominated Senior Responsible Officer for the Compact, and a civil society liaison officer responsible for day to day promotion and management of Compact implementation;

reviewed and monitored consultation lengths, to ensure consultations with the CSO sector are 12 weeks, where possible;

has incorporated the Compact into its own cross departmental guidance on matters like grant funding and procurement;

monitored departmental Compact compliance, via the number of complaints received about the implementation of the Compact;

participated in the National Audit Office (NAO's) review of the National Compact implementation; and

made ministerial statements and provided leadership on the Compact signalling its importance to relevant stakeholder groups e.g. by including a statement on the value of the Compact in arm's length bodies business planning guidance.

In 2012-13 the Department will also include reporting on the Compact within its business plan to be published in spring 2012.

The Department welcomes the recent NAO inquiry on Government implementation of the Compact and will work with Compact Voice to take forward the report's recommendations to help Departments improve how they embed Compact principles into departmental activities.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in implementing European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. [92962]

Lynne Featherstone: European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes was adopted in September 2010 and came into force on 9 November 2010. Member states must transpose the provisions of the directive into national legislation by 10 November 2012. The majority of its provisions must be implemented from 1 January 2013. The mandatory standards of care and accommodation set out in Annex III to the directive must be implemented by 1 January 2017.

A public consultation on the options for transposition of the directive was launched on 13 June 2011 and closed on 5 September 2011. Over 13,000 individuals and nearly 100 organisations responded to the consultation. Analysis of the responses is almost complete. Decisions on options will be announced in due course. In the meantime, preliminary work is proceeding on the preparation of draft regulations to transpose the provisions of the directive into UK legislation and on the preparation of draft guidance to accompany the legislation. In addition comments have been invited from interested organisations on a draft code of practice on care and accommodation.

Arrest Warrants: Extradition

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European arrest warrants seeking the extradition of a UK citizen to another EU member state have been served in each constituency in each of the last five years. [92089]

Damian Green: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for Scotland are the designated UK authorities responsible for processing European arrest warrants (EAWs). Information is held on part 1 cases (persons wanted from the UK by another member state) and part 3 cases (persons wanted by the UK from another member state).

According to SOCA records, the following table shows the number of UK nationals arrested in the UK under a part 1 EAW from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

As at 1 April to 31 March each year	*Number of UK nationals arrested*
2008-09	29
2009-10	79
2010-11	59

Due to the way data were recorded prior to 1 April2008, it is not possible to provide data on the number of UK nationals arrested in the UK on part 1 EAWs prior to this date without a manual examination of each individual case file. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

Data are not held by SOCA to allow these figures to be broken down into the number of warrants served in each constituency.

Criminal Records: EU Action

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the establishment of the European Criminal Records Information System. [92478]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are fully supportive of the establishment of the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) in April 2012. ECRIS will provide for higher volumes and faster, more efficient exchanges of criminal records information across the EU and will therefore be a valuable new tool in fighting cross-border criminality. The European Commission is satisfied that ECRIS is on track to become operational as scheduled in April this year and I am pleased to confirm that the UK is on track to be ready to use the mechanism from that point.

Deloitte

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts her Department has awarded to Deloitte since May 2010; and what the *(a)* net and *(b)* individual monetary value was of each such contract. [92445]

Damian Green *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* The Home Department, including its executive agencies, has awarded 36 contracts with a total value of £1,960,919.96 to Deloitte since May 2010. The contracts are as follows:

	Contracts	*(a) Net value (£)*	*(b) Individual monetary value (£)*
1	Space planning exercise	5,000.00	5,000.00
2	Space planning exercise	7,500.00	7,500.00
3	Structural survey	2,777.90	2,777.90
4	Space planning exercise	9,984.01	9,984.01
5	Project Management—office consolidation	43,547.22	43,547.22
6	Feasibility report	11,991.25	11,991.25
7	Pre acquisition survey	6,967.13	6,967.13
8	Feasibility report	11,991.25	11,991.25
9	Feasibility report	16,046.25	16,046.25
10	Feasibility report	5,916.72	5,916.72
11	Feasibility report	17,122.00	17,122.00
12	Feasibility report	5,565.81	5,565.81
13	Space planning exercise	8,732.94	8,732.94
14	Project Management—office refurbishment	59,140.10	59,140.10
15	Project Management—office refurbishments	77,664.00	77,664.00
16	Quality assurance exercise	3,749.09	3,749.09
17	Feasibility report	11,942.72	11,942.72
18	Space planning exercise	9,969.92	9,969.92

	Contracts	(a) Net value (£)	(b) Individual monetary value (£)
19	Feasibility report	7,412.62	7,412.62
20	Project Management—office consolidation	561,900.00	561,900.00
21	Feasibility report	52,000.00	52,000.00
22	Project Management—programme of minor works	86,196.00	86,196.00
23	Feasibility report	8,279.28	8,279.28
24	Planning application	3,262.75	3,262.75
25	Project management	24,945.70	24,945.70
26	Feasibility report	19,633.30	19,633.30
27	Space planning exercise	14,763.60	14,763.60
28	Specialist vat advisory services	17,889.00	17,889.00
29	Infrastructure resilience review	19,913.00	19,913.00
30	Programme services consultancy services	362,905.60	362,905.60
31	Programme services consultancy services	67,047.20	67,047.20
32	Programme services consultancy services	1,505.00	1,505.00
33	Programme services consultancy services	68,293.60	68,293.60
34	Programme services consultancy services	62,880.00	62,880.00
35	Programme services consultancy services	200,000.00	200,000.00
36	Programme services consultancy services	66,485.00	66,485.00
	Total	1,960,919.96	1,960,919.96

Departmental Expenditure: Alcoholic Drinks

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its public bodies have spent on (i) wine, (ii) other alcoholic refreshments and (iii) bottled water since May 2010. [91957]

Damian Green *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* The Home Office accounting systems do not identify separate expenditure on wine, other alcoholic refreshments or bottled water. The information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department will provide to *(a)* Women's Aid, *(b)* the Prince's Trust, *(c)* Inner City Guidance, *(d)* Refuge and *(e)* London Tigers in 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [85690]

Damian Green *[holding answer 8 December 2011]:* The Home Office has provided £1.247 million to these organisations so far this year. Grant applications for January to March 2012 are currently under consideration.

Third parties	*Grant spend to December 2011 (£)*
(a) Women's Aid	305,000
(b) The Prince's Trust	250,000
(c) Inner City Guidance	228,750
(d) Refuge	300,000
(e) London Tigers	163,604

Departmental Pilot Schemes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which pilots her Department has open. [91137]

Damian Green: The Home Office business plan includes the following open pilots:

Trailblazers—building on the success of the national crime mapping website, Police.uk, trailblazer areas are undertaking exploratory work to increase transparency across crime, policing and justice and through the provision of a wider range of information.

Domestic violence protection orders—to conduct and evaluate the effectiveness of domestic violence protection orders and domestic violence protection notices, which are designed to exclude the perpetrator from the designated premises and give victims of domestic violence the time and space to consider their options.

In addition, across Home Office operations, there is ongoing trialling of a range of potential improvements prior to full roll-out.

Work Experience

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work experience or traineeship schemes her Department offers to minority groups. [92750]

Damian Green: The Home Office currently participates in the Fast Stream Summer Diversity Internship programmes for minority ethnic and low socio-economic background undergraduates; and the Windsor Fellowship Leadership programme for minority ethnic undergraduates.

Illegal Immigrants

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* illegal immigrants, *(b)* asylum seekers, *(c)* foreign nationals in breach of visa requirements and *(d)* foreign nationals with no right to remain in the UK were deported in each of the last five years; and to which countries such people were deported. [92036]

Damian Green: Deportations are a specific subset of removals which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. The deportation order prohibits the person returning to the UK until such time as it may be revoked. Most illegal immigrants are removed under administrative or illegal entry powers from the UK rather than being deported.

It has therefore been assumed that the question refers to the number of removals and voluntary departures from the UK as opposed to the number of deportations.

Information on *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(c)* foreign nationals in breach of visa requirements who were removed from the UK is not separately identifiable from published sources.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures of *(b)* asylum seekers and *(d)* non-asylum seekers by country of destination are available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: July to September 2011.

Due to the size of the tables involved for each year, annual data showing the asylum/non-asylum breakdown by country of destination removed to are available from table rv.06 and quarterly data from table rv.06.q within the Immigration Statistics releases from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Data for October 2011 onwards are not yet available, but quarterly data for October to December 2011 will be published as part of the regular Home Office publication scheme on 23 February 2012.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants subject to removal proceedings left the UK without contesting the decision in each of the last five years; how many such immigrants appealed and were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful in their appeal; and how many such immigrants remain in the UK awaiting deportation. [92038]

Damian Green: Appellants do not have the right to appeal against removal. They are only able to exercise their right of appeal against their immigration application decision.

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the report on the analysis of the impacts of migration by the Migration Advisory Committee, if she will estimate the number of jobs unavailable to UK citizens due to immigration from EU member states. [91431]

Damian Green: The report by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), Analysis of the Impacts of Migration, investigated the possible relationship between migration and the employment of British-born citizens. For EU migrants the MAC did not find estimates of the effect to be statistically significant.

Immigration Controls

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress her Department has made on simplifying the administrative load on small businesses relating to immigration rules. [92882]

Damian Green: This Government's target is to reduce net migration, and they are committed to making the immigration system easier to use. Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs), issued to demonstrate immigration status, will make identity, immigration status and 'Right to Work' (RTW) by employers simpler and more secure. We have issued 600,000 to date, and will complete the roll-out to new in-country applicants from February 2012. In addition, from spring 2012, we plan to launch an automated online checking service, in order to ensure employers are able to make quick and easy real time checks on the validity of the permit.

Immigration: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of each immigration case contested by the immigrant subject to removal proceedings in each of the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the time each case takes to process from the initiation of removal proceedings to a final resolution. [92037]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is unable to provide this information without incurring disproportionate costs.

Private Security Industry

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any private companies are exempt from the requirement of section 4 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. [91261]

Lynne Featherstone: The Private Security Industry Act 2001 requires the licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities and the voluntary approval of companies within the private security industry. It does not require companies to be licensed.

Section 4 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001, makes provision for exemptions from what would otherwise be licensable. This allows the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), to exempt individuals from SIA licensing in certain circumstances, if suitable alternative arrangements to licensing apply.

Prostitution

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many brothels were closed down by each police force in each of the last three years; [92894]

(2) how many brothel visits or raids each police force has made in each of the last three years. [92903]

Lynne Featherstone: This information is not held centrally.

Metal Theft

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent consideration she has given to bringing forward legislative proposals to amend the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 in response to recent trends in the level of metal theft. [92252]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* The Government recognise that metal theft is a serious and growing national problem with wide ranging social and financial impacts, including on churches and heritage sites.

The Government are taking urgent action to address it, including funding a new dedicated metal theft taskforce. The Government consider that legislation is the only sustainable, long-term solution and will lay in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill an amendment to create a new criminal offence to prohibit cash payments to purchase scrap metal; and significantly increase the fines for all offences under the existing Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 that regulates the scrap metal recycling industry. These amendments are part of our wider attempts to tackle all stages in the illegal trading of stolen scrap metal, and we shall bring forward further measures in due course.

Telephone Tapping: Warrants

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many interception warrants for telephone tapping she has authorised under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 since December 2010. [91492]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* Information regarding the issue of warrants for the interception of communications is set out in the annual reports of the Interception of Communications Commissioner. A link to the most recent report, covering 2010, is at:

www.ipt-uk.com/docs/Interception_of_Communications_2406.pdf

Information on warrants authorised in 2011 will be published in the Commissioner's next annual report, due to be published during 2012.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to measure progress on the implementation of policies supporting the big society initiative; and if she will make a statement. [91397]

Damian Green: The Home Office promotes a number of activities that support big society objectives. This includes the Safer Future Communities programme, which is helping to prepare the voluntary sector for the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners. We will be evaluating how effective the programme has been in the development of local voluntary and community networks over the coming year.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Councillors: Conduct

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an estimate of the number of local councillors who were considered to have vacated their office by virtue of non-attendance under section 85 of Local Government Act 1972 in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [91768]

Robert Neill: My Department has made no such estimate. It is for local authorities to monitor the attendance at meetings of their elected members.

Departmental Pay

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in his Department are paid £100,000 or more per annum. [92927]

Robert Neill: As of 31 December 2011, the Department for Communities and Local Government had 12 staff being paid £100,000 or more per annum.

The salaries of senior staff in Department for Communities and Local Government are publicly available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website for the periods ending 30 September 2011, 31 March 2011 and 30 June 2010.

This information can be found here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyingovernment/staffdata/

Empty Property

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of empty houses in the *(a)* UK and *(b)* Milton Keynes unitary authority area. [92563]

Andrew Stunell: The numbers of empty homes in England and in each local authority district of England, based on data from the council tax system, are published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website in Live Table 615 at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/stockincludingvacants/livetables/

Figures for the other countries of the UK are published separately by the devolved Administrations. Data sources and definitions may differ between the figures for each country.

Energy Performance Certificates

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the proportion of homes with an energy performance certificate rating below C that are physically capable of being brought up to a C rating or above. [91872]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government currently has no plans to estimate the proportion of homes with energy performance certificate ratings below C that are capable of being brought up to a C rating or above.

The recommendation report of an individual certificate provides a range of suggestions on how the property can improve its energy efficiency in a cost effective way.

Of the 4,014,570 homes in England and Wales which had combined energy performance certificate ratings below C, up to and including 23 January 2012, 983,808 have the potential to raise their ratings to C or above, as assessed on their certificates.

Fire Services: Standards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of fire service response times from time of call to time of first attendance for each fire and rescue service were of a duration of *(a)* up to five minutes, *(b)* six to 10 minutes, *(c)* 11 to 15 minutes and *(d)* over 15 minutes in each of the last five years. [R] [92591]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not yet available. However, it is intended that analysis of response time data, including the information requested, will be included in the Fire Statistics Monitor which is to be published by July. This will include data up to 31 March 2012.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92123]

Robert Neill: My Department places on its disclosure log copies of freedom of information responses which we judge would be in the wider public interest to publish.

The disclosure log can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/foi/disclosure-log/

The average time of publication varies—it is typically within a month, as they are often published in batches.

Social Housing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that homes provide sufficient personal space for children, including separate bedrooms for older children. [92320]

Andrew Stunell: The reforms to social housing allocations, homelessness and tenure in the Localism Act will make it much easier for social landlords to manage their stock to reduce overcrowding.

We are also consulting on new guidance for local councils which encourages them to use the 'bedroom standard', a modern measure of overcrowding, when assessing whether a household is overcrowded for the purpose of allocating social housing.

In setting out the framework for the Affordable Homes programme, the Government have made clear that the programme must take account of local priorities, which in some areas will include the provision of family-sized homes.

The new homes bonus will also encourage local authorities to meet the housing need in their areas, including the housing need of families, by matching the council tax for the following six years. Family homes will tend to be in a higher council tax band than smaller houses or flats. In addition every affordable home built will receive an additional premium of £350 per year, up to around 36% more than for an equivalent market home.

As outlined in the answer on 2 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 483W, our removal of national minimum density targets now gives local authorities the flexibility to set density ranges that suit the local needs in their areas—particularly for family homes.

Residential Developments

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure designs for new residential developments have safe access to *(a)* primary health care, *(b)* schools and *(c)* play areas for children. [92322]

Robert Neill: The Government attach great importance to the achievement of well designed homes and high quality places. The draft National Planning Policy Framework says that to deliver the facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and good access to key services and infrastructure.

In addition, the draft Framework also asks for key facilities such as primary schools and local shops to be within walking distance of most properties, particularly for larger scale residential developments. We are currently considering carefully all the responses to the consultation on the draft Framework.

Retail Trade: Planning Permission

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he follows in determining retail planning applications that have been approved by local councils and then called in. [92262]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* In determining any applications that he has called in for his own determination, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), has regard to the legal requirement that planning applications should be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Current national planning policy on retail development is contained in PPS4 Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92289]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government signed up to the renewed Compact published in December 2010.

Over the last year the Department has taken the following actions to ensure the Compact is being implemented:

has a nominated Senior Responsible Office for the Compact and a civil society liaison officer responsible for day to day promotion and management of Compact implementation.

monitors departmental Compact compliance, via the number of complaints received about the implementation of the Compact.

participated in the National Audit Office's review of the National Compact implementation.

I am particularly pleased that this Department won the National Compact Award during the 2011 Compact Week for our work, with the sector, in producing the Best Value guidance which gives a new, clear prominence to working with the voluntary sector, helps build the confidence of these organisations in holding public agencies to account, is explicit about the scope for Best Value authorities to consider social value in their functions and specifically mentions local Compacts.

In 2012-13 the Department will also include reporting on the Compact within its business plan to be published in spring 2012.

My officials will also be following up the other recommendations within the National Audit Office report in order to ensure that the Department continues to be a strong model of collaborative working between Government and the voluntary sector.

Water: Conservation

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking through the planning system to encourage rainwater harvesting in *(a)* domestic, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* industrial buildings. [91800]

Robert Neill: In line with our reforms to simplify the planning system, the draft National Planning Policy Framework, which we consulted on last year, streamlines existing national planning policy into a consolidated and clearer set of priorities to consider when planning for sustainable development. In doing so the draft framework sets out specific requirements only where necessary, for example, to avoid and manage risks from flooding. In this respect, the draft framework proposes that new development in flood risk areas should give priority to the use of sustainable drainage systems (which can, where appropriate, include rainwater harvesting).

I would also refer my hon. and learned Friend to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell), to my right hon. Friend the Member for Mid Sussex (Nicholas Soames), on 17 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 632-33W, on the issue of rainwater harvesting.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: RAF Northolt

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment her Department has made of the potential for increased *(a)* passenger and *(b)* business flights from RAF Northolt; [92941]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of *(a)* environmental and *(b)* noise implications of increasing the number of flights from RAF Northolt. [92942]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not made any assessment of the potential for increased passenger or business flights from RAF Northolt or on the related environmental and noise implications.

RAF Northolt is a Ministry of Defence establishment.

Aviation: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Welsh Government on the Draft Civil Aviation Bill and its effect on airports in Wales. [91575]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Bill extends to the whole of the UK. Welsh Government officials and Ministers have been kept informed of measures in the Bill as they have developed. A draft copy of the Civil Aviation Bill was shared with Edwina Hart AM, Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science, in the Welsh Government, prior to its publication. The Welsh Government have expressed support for the Bill.

Christmas

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if she will make a statement. [91106]

Norman Baker: In 2011 my Department spent £8 on Christmas decorations at the Air Accidents Investigation Branch, Farnborough. This was for the replacement of lights/bulbs that were at least 12-years-old and deemed to be a safety hazard. I do not regard this as unreasonable.

There was no other expenditure on Christmas trees or decorations in the Department for Transport.

Procurement

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 636W, on procurement, what contracts her Department *(a)* has issued and *(b)* has at preferred bidder stage where any part of the contract is priced in a foreign currency; which part of the contract or bid is priced in a foreign currency in each case; and what the currency is in each case. [92398]

Mrs Villiers: Bids are typically priced in pounds sterling. Where there are significant costs to bidders arising in foreign currency, exchange rate assumptions may be provided to all bidders on which to base their bids.

At contract signature such assumptions are re-calibrated for the relevant rates at that time and reflected in the sterling amount to be paid under the contracts. Exchange rate risk after financial close lies with the bidder.

Therefore, *(a)* where contracts have been issued they are priced in pounds sterling; *(b)* details of preferred and reserve bidders' tenders remain confidential to bidders and the Department.

Great Western Railway Line

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the potential level of public subsidy to be received by the company which takes over the new Great Western franchise on *(a)* an annual and *(b)* a cumulative basis over the lifetime of the franchise. [91997]

Mrs Villiers: The Department has been and will continue to undertake detailed financial analysis of the Great Western franchise to determine its commercial position for the forthcoming competition to operate these services. The Government do not publish such details as this would prejudice our commercial position in obtaining the best price and value for taxpayer from this franchise competition.

Great Western Main Line: Electrification

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the date of completion of electrification of the Great Western Main Line to *(a)* Newport and *(b)* Cardiff Central stations. [91996]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail is delivering the electrification of the Great Western Main Line. Newport and Cardiff will be complete by December 2017.

High Speed 2

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of compensation payments to residents and businesses along the planned High Speed 2 route up to the beginning of train services on the route. [91917]

Justine Greening: As of September 2011, HS2 Ltd estimated the cost of land acquisition and compensation payments to be £965 million, for the first phase London to West Midlands route. This does not include discretionary or hardship-based acquisitions as these proposals are still under development and will be consulted on in the spring.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral statement of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 23-59, on high-speed rail, what estimate she has made of the number of businesses that will re-locate from Birmingham to London as a result of shorter journey times; and if she will make a statement. [90288]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* It is estimated that HS2 will help support growth in employment of more than 8,000 jobs in the west midlands and regenerate Birmingham's Eastside. While no specific assessment has been made of whether businesses would relocate from Birmingham to London as a result of HS2, table 5 of the Economic Case for HS2 published this month shows that, based on where people start their journeys, over three-quarters of the monetised business benefits of a Y-shaped HS2 network are likely to be accrued outside London.

Large Goods Vehicles

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 24-5WS, on high-volume semi-trailers, what *(a)* information, *(b)* advice and *(c)* guidance she has issued to local authorities in advance of the longer lorry trials. [92951]

Mike Penning: No material has been issued specifically for local authorities. Department for Transport officials have answered questions received from two local authorities.

Metal Theft

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 669W, on metals: theft, when the £5 million fund to establish a nationwide taskforce to target metal thieves and scrap metal dealers who illegally trade in stolen metal will be made available; and what progress has been made on a new regulatory framework. [87708]

Norman Baker: In the autumn statement, the British Transport police were given the go-ahead to undertake expenditure from the £5 million fund for the establishment and operation of a dedicated national taskforce to tackle metal theft. Work is now under way to establish a central command and management team to co-ordinate operational activity and intelligence, supported by a number of regional teams, comprising police, Environment Agency and HMRC representatives, who will undertake enhanced enforcement and detection activity.

The Government believe that the existing regulatory regime for the scrap metal industry is no longer effective and needs to be revised. As the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), announced in a written ministerial statement on 26 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 25-26WS, the Government will be tabling amendments to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill to prohibit cash payments for the purchase of scrap metal, and to increase fines for offences under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964. Further measures will be brought forward in due course.

Midland Main Line: Electrification

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for the electrification of the Midland Mainline between Nottingham and London; and if she will make a statement. [92510]

Mrs Villiers: The Government support progressive electrification of the rail network in England and Wales as a way of reducing the cost of running the railways, increasing efficiency and reducing carbon emissions. We continue to work with Network Rail to look at the case for further electrification, including of the Midland Main Line, between Nottingham and London, in the next rail Control Period starting in 2014.

Rail Franchises

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of measures to control costs in rail franchise awards on *(a)* train timetables and *(b)* levels of overcrowding; and if she will make a statement. [91286]

Mrs Villiers: Improving efficiency and reducing cost is vital to the future of the railway. But this will not be at the cost of good services for passengers and will not lead to a reduction in capacity. This Government are investing in rail, with £18 billion of rail funding in last year's spending review and the biggest programme of railway modernisation since the Victorian era.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the minimum number of station calls is at each station each *(a)* week and *(b)* day on the Intercity West Coast franchise route (i) to and from London Euston and (ii) between Birmingham New Street and Edinburgh Waverley. [R] [92383]

Mrs Villiers: The Train Service Requirement (TSR) requested was published on 20 January 2012 and is available on the Departments website at:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/intercity-west-coast-franchise-itt/attachment-a.pdf

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to begin the tendering process for the next Integrated Kent Franchise agreement. [91993]

Mrs Villiers: The Department normally begins the formal process for retendering for new franchises around 18 months before the new commencement date. We have not yet made any formal announcement regarding the timescales for the new Integrated Kent Franchise which is due to start on 1 April 2014.

Railways: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of miles of railway track within Wales that will be electrified by the end of *(a)* December 2016 and *(b)* December 2017. [91998]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail's electrification programme will not have delivered electrified track in Wales by December 2016. I currently estimate that for December 2017, up to 101 single track miles will be electrified and ready for electric services.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government on *(a)* the McNulty Review of Rail Value for Money study, *(b)* capacity on the redoubling of the Swindon to Kemble route and *(c)* the consultation for the proposed new Great Western franchise. [91999]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), recently met with Carl Sargeant, Assembly Minister with responsibility for Transport, to discuss rail related issues. The meeting did not cover any of the above issues.

Officials are in regular contact with officials from the Welsh Assembly Government on a range of rail and other issues.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to announce the findings of studies on the possible electrification of the Valley Lines. [92136]

Mrs Villiers: As the studies on the possible electrification of the Valley Lines have been commissioned by the Welsh Government, it is for that Government to make any such announcements.

Mrs Siân C. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government on electrification of rail infrastructure serving Swansea. [92209]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), met Carl Sargeant AM on 16 January 2012 where the matter of Cardiff to Swansea electrification was discussed alongside the Welsh Government's other electrification proposals.

Taxis: Fares

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the operation of section 71 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 on taxi metering. [92534]

Norman Baker: The Department has made no assessment of the operation of this section. Individual licensing authorities are responsible for testing any taximeters which are fitted in the private hire vehicles which they license. They can take action against any person who attempts to deceive consumers by tampering with a taximeter.

There is a wider point about ensuring that any taximeter placed on the market complies with the Measuring Instruments (Taximeters) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/2304). We are currently looking into various options as to how the enforcement regime under these regulations will be carried out in the future.

Transport: Infrastructure

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the analysis by IPPR North of the autumn statement announcements on transport infrastructure, whether she has made an assessment of IPPR North's conclusion that 84% of the announced spending on such projects will benefit London and the South East region. [89431]

Norman Baker: I have not assessed IPPR North's specific assertion that 84% of the transport infrastructure spending announcements in the autumn statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, will benefit London and the south-east.

However, the following table breaks down spend on both the transport schemes announced as part of the autumn statement and the further Local Authority Major Transport schemes announced on 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 104-6WS.

This clearly demonstrates that the autumn statement announcements will improve transport networks across the country.

It can be difficult and misleading to assign spend to a particular region as the benefits of certain projects can be far more widespread (for example, improvements to a particular section of motorway will not only benefit those living nearby). In addition, a number of projects announced in the autumn statement, such as funding for bridge renewals, are not specific to a particular region. For Trans Pennine Electrification, spend has been apportioned between the north-west and Yorkshire and the Humber for the purpose of this exercise.

Description	*Total spend (£ million)*
North East	
Morpeth northern bypass	21.1
Sunderland strategic corridor	82.6
Accelerate NEXUS (Tyne and Wear metro) modernisation programme[1]	4.0
	107.7
North West	
New link road for M56 (Manchester Airport) to the A6	120.0
Crewe Green link southern section	15.7
Manchester cross city bus[1]	32.5
Pennine Reach (East Lancs rapid transit)	31.9
Rochdale interchange[1]	7.0
Trans Pennine electrification (spend arbitrarily split between regions)	145.0
	352.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	
Accelerating M1 J39-42 improvements[1]	50.0
Leeds inner ring road[2]	18.5
Leeds rail growth	10.3
A6182 White Rose Way improvement scheme	9.7
South Yorkshire bus rapid transit phase 1 (Sheffield)	19.4
A164 Humber bridge to Beverley	7.7
Beverley integrated transport plan	20.7
A684 Bedale bypass	35.9
Access York park and ride	15.3
New road linking the A18 and A180	4.9
Supertram additional vehicles (Sheffield)	12.4
Large debt write off and lower tolls for the Humber Bridge	294.0
Trans Pennine electrification (spend arbitrarily split between regions)	145.0
	643.8
West Midlands	
Managed motorway on the M6 - Junction 10a to Junction 13	118.9
Improving the A45/46 at Tollbar End	113.0
A45 westbound bridge (Solihull)	8.5
Darlaston (Walsall)	14.3
Evesham bridge maintenance	8.6
Worcester ITS	14.2
Chester Road (Birmingham)	8.3
Coventry-Nuneaton rail upgrade	9.8
	295.6
East Midlands	
Widening A453 between Nottingham, the M1 and East Midlands airport	160.0
Improving Junction 19—the junction between the M1, M6 and A14, a key freight route, as well as improving safety	153.0
Widening A14 Junction 7 to Junction 9 (Kettering Bypass)	113.4
New A43 Corby link road	21.2
Hucknall town centre improvement scheme	8.5
Lincoln eastern bypass	50.0
London road bridge (Derby)	4.4
Loughborough town centre transport scheme	14.8
Nottingham ring road	12.8
	538.1
East	
A14 targeted improvements between Cambridge and Huntingdon	20.0
Croxley rail link (Watford)	76.2
Luton town centre transport scheme	15.9
Norwich northern distributor road	86.5
	198.6
South West	
South Bristol link phases 1 and 2	27.6
New A380 road linking Newton Abbot to Torbay (Kingskerswell Bypass)	76.4
Bath transportation package	11.7
BRT Ashton Vale to Temple Meads (Bristol)	34.5
Camborne-Pool-Redruth transport package	16.1
Elmbridge transport (Gloucester)	14.1
Weston Super Mare package	10.4
North Fringe to Hengrove package BRT (Bristol)	51.1
	241.9
London	
Managed motorway on the M3, Junction 2 to Junction 4a	150.1
Accelerating M25 Junction 23 to Junction 27 improvements[1]	50.0
Retrofit existing buses for air quality purposes (this will be match funded by the Mayor)	5.0
	205.1
South East	
Tipner interchange (Portsmouth)	19.8
Northern road bridge (Portsmouth)	11.1
East-West rail project	270.0
Flexible commuter rail tickets	45.0
New Southern rail carriages	80.0
	425.9
Not region specific	
Integrated transport block top up—Used by local transport authorities for small transport improvement schemes costing less than £5 million	50.0
Road pinch point fund—Local Managed Network Schemes and highways technology improvements	217.5
New low carbon emission buses—green bus fund round 3	20.0

Description	*Total spend (£ million)*
Tackle local problems on the rail network more quickly (NRDF)	100.0
Metal theft taskforce	5.0
Capping rail fares at RPI+1 (lost rail revenues and transitional costs)—includes TfL	290.0
Rail winter resilience	10.0
Access for All station accessibility improvements	26.0
Bridge renewals	250.0
	968.6

[1] These schemes are being accelerated and spend is being brought forward from future years.
[2] This is the maximum DfT spend and is dependent on the successful resolution of various funding agreements with other bodies who have liability for some of the works.

WALES

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what contribution her Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if she will make a statement. [92297]

Mr David Jones: This Compact is an agreement between the Government and civil society organisations in England. The Welsh Government have operational responsibility for engagement with civil society organisations in areas where policy responsibility is devolved and has existing arrangements for engagement with civil society organisations. The Compact does not override these arrangements.

The Wales Office does not fund services provided by voluntary and civil society organisations in Wales but where the Government interact with or have responsibility for funding these services in Wales, they will honour the commitments made in the Compact.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan National Army

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to increase the recruitment numbers for the *(a)* Afghanistan National Army and *(b)* Afghanistan National Police. [92334]

Nick Harvey: Recruitment numbers for the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) and Afghanistan National Police (ANP) are matters for the Government of Afghanistan. However, we will continue to work closely with them through the NATO Training Mission—Afghanistan to help build the capacity and capability of the forces.

Both the ANA and ANP are on track to reach their maximum target numbers in October 2012 as endorsed by the Standard Security Committee of the Joint Co-ordination Monitoring Board, the formal decision making body for Afghan and international co-ordination.

Armed Forces: Entertainment

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision his Department has made for the entertainment of UK armed forces *(a)* overseas and *(b)* UK-based in 2011-12; and what the equivalent figures were in each of the last 12 years. [92211]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence makes extensive provision for the entertainment of our armed forces overseas and in the UK. Entertainment is not provided centrally, but by a large number of different elements. Examples include a contract with Combined Services Entertainment to provide shows overseas and to those recovering in Headley Court and Selly Oak; separately, shows are provided for ships at sea. A contract with the Services Sound and Vision Corporation provides television and radio services for a number of overseas bases. Additionally, more than 25,000 armed forces personnel and their families are reached by Garrison Radio. Commanding officers have access to the Commanding Officers' Public Fund and Accumulated Welfare Fund, which can be used for the purchase of a variety of items, including televisions and computers. Figures for all elements of this entertainment provision are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what acts have performed for UK service personnel overseas in the last 12 years; and at what cost to his Department. [92212]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence has a contract with Combined Services Entertainment to provide entertainment acts, such as dancers, comedians and bands, to UK service personnel deployed overseas. The details of the individual acts contracted over this period are not held. For the 2011-12 financial year we expect the total cost for overseas performances (including travel, subsistence, insurance and other costs as well as fees paid to performers) to be £1.946 million. This is based on actual costs to the end of December 2011 and forecasts for January to March 2012.

For the previous 12 years the costs are shown in the following table:

	Cost (£ million)
1999-2000	0.096
2000-01	0.093
2001-02	0.054
2002-03	0.121
2003-04	2.151
2004-05	0.936
2005-06	1.439
2006-07	1.601
2007-08	1.786
2008-09	1.805
2009-10	0.887
2010-11	1.384

Departmental Theft

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a list of all items with a value of more than £100 which were stolen from his Department in 2011. [92957]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is available in the Library of the House.

Depleted Uranium

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methods were used to demilitarise and dispose of the depleted uranium ammunition for the Phalanx Close-in Weapons System; which regulatory framework applied to the work; how the depleted uranium metal was disposed of; and where the final disposal site was located. [92173]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* Demilitarisation of the depleted uranium ammunition for the Phalanx Close-in Weapons System was carried out under a Prime Contract at a commercial facility in Germany, with final disposal being completed at a commercial licensed recycling facility in the USA. Under the terms of the contract, both the prime contractor and associated sub-contractors were required to have the applicable licences and to comply with appropriate national and international safety and environmental regulations and with due regard to conventions, protocols and approvals. This included registration and use of Euratom safeguard registered sites, as required by the Euratom treaty within Europe. The commercial facility in the USA melted and cast the depleted uranium into ingots which are stored there for recycling.

Ex-servicemen: Health Services

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2012, *Official Report* columns 728-9W, on ex-servicemen: health services, (1) whether his Department has established whether the low numbers of referrals of patients with physical health problems to the Medical Assessment Programme is due to *(a)* patients not having such needs or *(b)* GPs not being aware of the services available to them; [91814]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that GPs are aware of the *(a)* Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) and *(b)* services offered by the MAP. [91815]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* We believe that the decline of physical health referrals from 1990-91 Gulf veterans is due to a number of factors. Most notably, the Gulf conflict took place over 20 years ago and so it is unsurprising that referrals of physical health complaints of Gulf veterans have now reduced to a very low level and that those which are reported are less likely to be connected with their deployment.

Another key factor is the reassurance provided by the publication of independent peer-reviewed scientific research in the UK and US showing that there is no evidence of a unique 'Gulf War Syndrome'. In addition many of the issues of concern to Gulf veterans have been addressed with the publication of reports following the Ministry of Defence (MOD) investigation of the facts.

Details about the Medical Assessment Programme have been on the MOD, Veterans-UK, and NHS websites for many years. In addition, last year the MOD, Department of Health and the Royal College of General Practitioners launched a GPs' e-learning package on veterans' and service families' health to help increase GPs' awareness of military issues raised. This followed the report on veterans' mental health care published by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison).

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made since the conclusion of Operation Ellamy of NATO's requirement for independent ISTAR assets for future operations. [91779]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence is conducting its own lessons identified exercise. This will feed into NATO's assessment of the operations in Libya.

The lessons identified will contribute to the Department's internal planning round process and also the NATO Defence Planning process. Certain capabilities, including intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft, were identified as priority capability shortfalls at the NATO Lisbon summit and work continues to address them, including through the Secretary General's Smart Defence Initiative.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions Combined Air Operations Centre Finderup has directed Quick Reaction Alert flights from each RAF base; [91947]

(2) how many UK service personnel are assigned to each Combined Air Operations Centre. [91948]

Nick Harvey: To identify unknown aircraft in the NATO Air Policing Area, the NATO Combined Air Operations Centre Finderup issued direction to United Kingdom Control and Reporting Centres for the launch of UK military Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) aircraft on 10 occasions in 2011. The choice of the QRA base or bases used for each incident is at the discretion of the tactical commander and forms part of the deterrent value of our QRA posture. Therefore, this figure includes launches from both RAF Coningsby and RAF Leuchars.

The number of UK service personnel currently assigned to Combined Air Operations Centres (CAOC) is 47. The following table details the locations of each CAOC and the personnel numbers at each:

Location	*Number of Royal Air Force personnel*	*Number of Army personnel*	*Number of Royal Navy personnel*
CAOC1—Finderup, Denmark	16	1	0
CAOC2—Uedem, Germany	4	0	0
CAOC5—Poggio Renatico, Italy	0	0	0
C AOC6—Eskesehir, Turkey	0	0	0
CAOC7—Larissa, Greece	0	0	0
CAOC8—Torrejon, Spain	0	0	0

Location	*Number of Royal Air Force personnel*	*Number of Army personnel*	*Number of Royal Navy personnel*
CAOC10—Monsanto, Portugal	0	1	0
Air Component Command CAOC-Al Udeid	23	2	0
Total	43	4	0

Note:
CAOCs 3, 4 and 9 have been inactive since 2008.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft of each type are in service in each branch of the armed forces; and where each such aircraft is based. [92100]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* The number of fixed wing and rotary aircraft in service with each branch of the armed forces, and where each such aircraft is based is shown in the following table:

Aircraft type	*Service*	*Based at*	*In-service fleet (number)*
Apache	Army	Wattisham, Middle Wallop	67
BAE 146	RAF	Northolt	2
BAE 125	RAF	Northolt	6
C-17	RAF	Brize Norton	7
Chinook Mk 2/2a and Mk 3	RAF	Odiham	46
Defender Mk 1	Army	Aldergrove	9
Gazelle	Army	Aldergrove, Suffield (Canada), Middle Wallop	35
Hawk T1/T1A/T1W	RAF	Valley, Leeming, Culdrose, Scampton	129
Hawk T2	RAF	Valley	28
Hercules C130K	RAF	Brize Norton	8
Hercules C130J	RAF	Brize Norton	24
Islander Mk 1 and Mk2	Army	Aldergrove, Middle Wallop, Northolt	7
King Air	RAF	Waddington	5
Lynx Mk3	Fleet	Yeovilton	11
Lynx Mk7	Army	Dishforth, Odiham, Yeovilton, Gütersloh (Germany), Middle Wallop	50
Lynx Mk8	Fleet	Yeovilton	33
Lynx Mk 9/9a	Army	Dishforth, Odiham, Yeovilton, Gütersloh, Middle Wallop	22
Merlin Mk 1	Fleet	Culdrose	42
Merlin Mk 3/3a	RAF	Benson	28
Puma	RAF	Benson	31
Sea King Mk 3/3a	RAF	Valley, Wattisham, Lossiemouth, Leconfield, Boulmer, Chivenor, Falkland Islands	25
Sea King Mk 4	Fleet	Yeovilton	37
Sea King Mk 5	Fleet	Culdrose	16
Sea King Mk 7	Fleet	Culdrose	13
Sentinel	RAF	Waddington	5
Sentry	RAF	Waddington	6
Tornado GR4	RAF	Marham; Lossiemouth, Coningsby	136
Tri-Star	RAF	Brize Norton	8
Tucano T1	RAF	Linton-on-Ouse	91
Typhoon	RAF	Coningsby, Leuchars, Falkland Islands, BAE Warton	86
VC10	RAF	Brize Norton	9
Vigilant T1	RAF	Volunteer Gliding Schools (VGS)—Various[1]	65
Viking T1	RAF	VGS Various[2]	82

[1] Abingdon, Dalton Barracks; Chivenor; Cosford; Halton; Henlow; Linton-on-Ouse; Little Rissington; Lossiemouth; Newtownards Airfield; Odiham; St Athan; Swansea Airport; Syerston; Ternhill; Topcliffe; Woodvale.

[2] Arbroath Airfield; Hullavington, Buckley Barracks; Kenley; Kirknewton; Predannack Airfield; Syerston; Upavon Airfield; Watton, STANTA (Stanford Practical Training Area) Airfield; MDP Wethersfield.

Radioactive Waste: Dalgety Bay

Mr Gordon Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his planned visit to Fife in the week of 30 January 2012, if he will visit the sites at Dalgety Bay now under scrutiny for radiation contamination. [92875]

Mr Robathan: I am, this day, at Dalgety Bay and am visiting these sites. My office notified the right hon. Member's office of my visit on 19 January.

Turkey: Armed Forces

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK armed forces personnel have been deployed to Turkey in the last two months; and if he will make a statement. [92224]

Nick Harvey: There has been no deployment of UK armed forces personnel to Turkey within the last two months.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what level of drugs was seized in Afghanistan in the last three years; and what further steps he plans to take to reduce drug production in that country. [92306]

Alistair Burt: The Criminal Justice Task Force, Afghanistan's leading counter-narcotics judicial institution, records all significant drug seizures associated with the prosecutions it handles. It suggests a total of 353.2 metric tonnes of illicit narcotics (heroine, morphine, opium, hashish) was seized between April 2009 and December 2011. Very low-level drugs cases are not included in this figure.

The UK has provided strong support to the Government of Afghanistan in delivering their National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS) and, in partnership with our international partners and the United Nations Office on Drugs Crime, will continue to do so in future. The NDCS sets out a comprehensive response to the narcotics trade including law enforcement, criminal justice, economic development and regional co-operation.

Afghanistan: Police

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on establishing the Police Academy of Afghanistan; what the expected completion date is; and how many recruits are expected to be trained each year. [92330]

Alistair Burt: The police training centre in Helmand has been operating since June 2010. Over 3,400 new recruits and 570 junior officers have graduated since the training centre opened. As of January 2012 there are 507 trainees at the training centre consisting of 198 junior officers, 299 patrolmen and 10 trauma assistance personnel medics. The number of recruits trained in future will vary depending on the nature of training being delivered, based on Afghan needs.

We continue to invest in the training centre, which will become the police training academy once construction is fully completed. The construction of student accommodation and a student Mosque is due to be completed by March 2012.

Arms Trade: Treaties

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he is taking steps to support the participation of women from conflict-affected countries in the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations. [92682]

Alistair Burt: Civil society and non-governmental organisations have played a crucial role in the progress made on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) so far, and, alongside Ambassador Moritan of Argentina, the Chair of the UN process on ATT, the UK has worked to ensure that civil society retain a voice in the UN Preparatory Committee meetings. We will continue to support this approach at the UN Conference in 2012. The UK Delegation regularly meets with civil society representatives from different regions, including women from regions affected by conflict, and this will continue at the final Preparatory Committee meeting and the UN Negotiating Conference. At the July Preparatory Committee meeting, the UK delegation met a group of survivors of armed violence. The UK has also funded a project in India that examined the impact of gun violence on women in Indian communities.

Atlantic Ocean Islands: Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the case for establishing a Marine Protected Area at *(a)* Tristan da Cunha, *(b)* South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, *(c)* Bermuda and *(d)* Pitcairn Island. [92165]

Mr Lidington: Various activities are currently under way relating to the conservation of the marine resources of Tristan, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Bermuda and Pitcairn. These will inform the ongoing discussions between my Department and Overseas Territory (OT) Governments about the appropriate options for the management and protection of the rich environmental assets of the OTs.

Bangladesh: Military Coups

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with the government of Bangladesh the attempted military coup in that country in December 2011. [92541]

Alistair Burt: Our high commission in Dhaka has discussed the attempted coup with the Bangladesh Government and has made clear our strong support for democracy and democratic institutions.

The UK does not condone or support unconstitutional action or any attempts to seize power by force. We favour constructive dialogue and strong independent and accountable institutions for a healthy and sustainable democracy in Bangladesh.

Ethiopia: Human Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent visits UK diplomats have made to the Ogaden region; and what discussions on the human rights of the people of that region his Department has had with the *(a)* Government of Ethiopia, *(b)* Government of Somalia and *(c)* African Union; and if he will make a statement. [92107]

Mr Lidington: British Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development officials regularly visit Ethiopia's Ogaden region, and meet with governmental, non-governmental, and civil society representatives. The British embassy in Addis Ababa regularly discusses the human rights situation in the region with Ethiopian federal and regional governments.

We have not raised human rights in the Ogaden region directly with the Transitional Government of Somalia.

Strengthening the protection of human rights and promoting good governance across Africa is a core element of HMG's regular dialogue with the African Union.

EU Action

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of paragraph 11 of the EU Parliament Motion for a Resolution B7-0000/2012 of 9 January 2012; and if he will make a statement. [92406]

Mr Lidington: The UK Government have noted both the European Parliament's resolution and the Serbian Government's announcement on 12 January 2012 that article 359 of the Criminal Code will be replaced during 2012 with a series of more specific offences, in line with EU and Council of Europe recommendations. The UK, in supporting an EU future for Serbia and all countries in the Western Balkans, will continue to insist that applicant states fully comply with the EU's membership criteria before acceding, including in establishing the rule of law.

Falkland Islands: Sovereignty

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the Falkland Islands. [92015]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are in regular touch with the US on this and many other issues. They understand our position. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), discussed the Falkland Islands with Secretary Clinton in Washington in December. The US takes no position on the Islands' sovereignty, but recognises the UK's administration. This is a longstanding US position. Ministers and officials have and will continue to make it clear to their US counterparts that the wishes of the Islanders are paramount, and that we will not negotiate on sovereignty so long as the Islanders wish to remain British.

Human Rights

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who within his Department is leading the review of guidance on security and justice assistance; and what steps he is taking to ensure gender considerations are included in that review. [92684]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Overseas Security and Justice Assistance (OSJA) guidance focuses on managing the risk of serious violations of human rights that may arise from Her Majesty's Government's (HMG's) security and justice work.

The Guidance refers specifically to sexual violence and human trafficking, issues which affect women and girls in particular, and more broadly, the need to protect and promote women's rights is mainstreamed throughout the Guidance.

The Human Rights and Democracy Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is leading the internal review of the OSJA Guidance, which will include a review of those elements of the Guidance dealing with gender issues. The review will focus on how the Guidance has been implemented and whether any further changes are needed in order to ensure that the Guidance is effective and user-friendly. The review will also be an opportunity for users of the Guidance to provide feedback on the content of the Guidance, including the extent to which it supports our goal of protecting and promoting women's rights.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the effects of house demolitions in the west bank; what assistance the Government plans to provide to Bedouins in Anata following the demolition of their houses; and if he will make a statement. [92207]

Alistair Burt: Our officials in the British embassy in Tel Aviv and the British Consulate General in Jerusalem monitor events in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and make daily reports on various issues including demolitions. Demolitions of houses and the eviction of Palestinians from their homes are deeply unhelpful when the focus should be on confidence-building steps with the aim of giving momentum to negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

I most recently raised concerns over plans to move west bank Bedouin communities with Deputy Foreign minister Danny Ayalon on 9 January. Our officials at the embassy in Tel Aviv regularly discuss the issue with the Israeli authorities. The Israeli authorities state that they are yet to finalise their plans and will consult fully with Bedouin communities before moving ahead. The UK continues to encourage the Israeli Government to carry through on this commitment, to comply fully with their obligations under international law and to ensure that any decision reached on the movement of Bedouin communities should be made with their full consent and not result in a forcible transfer.

The UK provides assistance through a number of organisations to enable Bedouin and other affected individuals to make legal representations against demolitions and evictions.

Pitcairn Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are responsible for the Pitcairn Islands. [92012]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There are around seven Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials with responsibilities relating to Pitcairn, among other duties. Other FCO officials provide specialist support and advice as required.

Serbia: Bail

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases of UK nationals having been refused bail by the Serbian criminal justice system his Department was dealing with in the latest period for which figures are available. [92439]

Mr Lidington: The UK Government do not collect data on the number of UK nationals refused bail by the Serbian criminal justice system. However, our embassy in Belgrade are aware of three UK nationals currently on remand in prison in Serbia pending future criminal hearings, one of whom has applied for bail and has had it refused.

Serbia: Detainees

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the welfare of UK passport holders detained by the Serbian criminal justice system. [92440]

Mr Lidington: Foreign and Commonwealth Office consular staff in Serbia endeavour to visit UK nationals detained by the Serbian authorities as soon as possible after their arrest, and conduct a welfare questionnaire aimed at establishing the conditions they are experiencing in prison, whether they have access to legal representation and to check whether they are being treated in line with internationally accepted standards in relation to prison conditions.

Our assessment is that UK nationals are not treated differently in any way from other incarcerated persons within Serbia. As the European Commission's October 2011 Report on Serbia notes, Serbia is continuing to make efforts to improve prison conditions, but many prisons still lack adequate facilities.

Serbia: EU Accession

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of offences under the Serbia criminal justice system that would need to be repealed before that country's accession to the EU. [92437]

Mr Lidington: The UK Government have not made an assessment of the precise legislative changes that Serbia will need to make in order to accede to the European Union (EU). As the European Commission's 2011 Opinion on Serbia's application for EU membership noted, in order to meet EU standards and accede to the EU, Serbia will need to adopt and implement new legislation across a number of fields, including changes to the constitution and criminal code. The UK, in supporting an EU future for Serbia and all countries in the Western Balkans, will continue to insist that applicant states fully comply with the EU's membership criteria before acceding.

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account he has taken of the *(a)* human rights record and *(b)* rule of law in the Republic of Serbia in formulating his policy on its potential accession to the EU. [92438]

Mr Lidington: The UK Government strongly support an EU future for Serbia, and for all countries in the Western Balkans, but insist that applicant states fully comply with the EU's membership criteria before acceding. This includes meeting the Copenhagen criteria, which require applicant countries to have achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities. Applicants must also meet the requirements of the EU acquis, including chapters 23 and 24, which cover judiciary and fundamental rights and justice, freedom and security.

The European Commission's October 2011 Opinion on Serbia's application for EU membership noted that Serbia has made significant progress against these criteria, but that further implementation of reforms is required. We will continue to encourage, and offer support to, the Serbian authorities in making these necessary reforms.

Sovereignty: Scotland

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what communications his Department has received from foreign governments in relation to the Scottish Government's policy of seeking independence for Scotland. [92455]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has discussions with, and receives representations from, Governments across the world on a wide range of issues. As has been the custom of successive Governments, we do not routinely publish communications received from foreign Governments.

Syria: Politics and Government

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* military and *(b)* financial assistance the Government has offered to the Free Syrian Army in the last two months; and if he will make a statement. [92223]

Alistair Burt: The British Government have not offered to provide any military or financial assistance to the Free Syrian Army.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), in a statement following his meeting with members of the Syrian opposition on 21 November emphasised Britain's commitment to supporting peaceful democratic change in Syria:

> "We call on all sides to refrain from violence, show restraint and vocalise their support for peaceful protest."

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92284]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) signed up to the renewed Compact published in December 2010. Much of our activity takes place overseas so is not within the remit of the Compact. We work hard, however, to strengthen and support civil society in all the countries that we work in.

The FCO make it as easy as possible for staff to contribute to their community by giving all employees up to five days paid special leave a year for this, whether in the UK or abroad. Many staff also choose to give up their own time to volunteer.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Education

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people in Afghanistan have undertaken an education programme funded by his Department in the last three years. [92298]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Education is vital for Afghanistan's long-term prosperity. The UK supports the Afghan education system by pooling funds with other donors through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) which helps to co-ordinate international funding and strengthens Afghan government financial systems. UK aid channelled via the ARTF has helped ensure that now 5.8 million children are attending school—almost 40% of them girls. Our contribution has also helped train teachers and rebuild schools. DFID is also funding technical and vocational education and training. We have provided training for 3,460 citizens of Helmand province so far, helping them to find employment and apprenticeships.

Afghanistan: Females

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had on increasing female representation in political life in Afghanistan. [92328]

Alistair Burt: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In advance of the International Conference on Afghanistan in Bonn on 5 December, I met Afghan civil society representatives and female parliamentarians and discussed the importance of women participating fully in the political process.

The Government's International Violence Against Women Champion, my hon. Friend the Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone), attended the Civil Society Forum on Afghanistan in Bonn where she reiterated the British Government's commitment to an inclusive political process in Afghanistan and the importance of the protection of Afghan women's rights. She also met a range of representatives from Afghan civil society and discussed female representation in political life.

Afghanistan: Terrorism

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Pakistan on reducing *(a)* Taliban and *(b)* terrorist attacks in Afghanistan. [92329]

Alistair Burt: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has had regular discussions with his Pakistani counterpart, most recently in December 2011. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs encouraged Pakistan to play a full role in the stabilisation of Afghanistan and in the improvement of regional security. We welcome Pakistan's agreement to the Istanbul Process on regional security and co-operation drawn up at the Istanbul Conference in November 2011. It is important that both Afghanistan and Pakistan work together to improve their long-term prosperity and security.

Charities: Education

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of his Department's joint working with the education charity TIDE. [92168]

Mr O'Brien: DFID's joint working with TIDE was subject to a full evaluation as part of the 2009 "Review of DFID's work to Build Support for Development through the education system" completed by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Developing Countries: Employment

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what definition of new jobs created his Department uses in respect of its country plans. [92214]

Mr O'Brien: Currently Department for International Development (DFID) country offices choose definitions of job creation appropriate to the local context. The range of job definitions includes:

Wage employment in the formal sector

Wage employment in the informal sector

Increase in income for self-employed individuals/households

These are designed to capture the variety of situations where a DFID intervention has given people the opportunity to earn their way out of poverty. Income increase is a particularly relevant metric in rural areas, especially amongst farming households, while wage employment is more commonly the focus in urban interventions. Policy interventions also tend to focus on formal employment (ie data collected by national statistics offices).

Employment

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how he will measure progress made towards his target to support jobs and opportunities to generate income for more than 10 million people. [92132]

Mr O'Brien: The overall Department for International Development (DFID) target of supporting jobs and opportunities to generate income for more than 10 million people is derived from the targets in the plans of DFID country offices and UK-based departments. These operational plans can be found on the DFID website at

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Site-search/?q=operational+plans

Each country office and department is responsible for monitoring progress against its operational plan on the basis of progress reports received from projects and programmes as well as periodic reviews and evaluations.

Ethiopia: Resettlement

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on whether any UK aid to Ethiopia has been spent on the villigisation programme in the Gambella region. [91852]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not directly support the Government of Ethiopia's villagisation programme, despite requests for us to do so.

UK aid helps provide health and education services and clean water to tens of millions of poor people across Ethiopia. We are committed to providing basic services to people wherever they live. A small proportion of this nationwide-support is being provided in areas that are included in the villagisation programme in Gambella.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make representations to the Ethiopian Government for it to halt the villagisation programme in the Gambella region. [91853]

Mr O'Brien: The villagisation programme has the potential to provide better services to people in rural areas. But only if it is well designed and managed.

Ministers and senior officials have raised our concerns with senior members of the Ethiopian Government that the programme is being poorly implemented. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell) raised our concerns again when he visited Ethiopia last week to attend the African Union summit

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the villagisation programme in the Gambella region; and if he will make a statement. [91854]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government led an independent multi-agency mission to Gambella in February 2011. The mission found no evidence of systemic or widespread human rights abuses or forced movement of communities. The mission did find that the villagisation programme was poorly planned and implemented. For example, new sites often did not have facilities such as schools and health centres in place. Latest reports from partners indicate that new infrastructure is slowly being put in place and also that some people are being allowed to return to their places of origin.

The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), issued a public statement on the situation after the release of Human Rights Watch report last week on villagisation in Gambella which confirmed that we are taking a close look at their findings and will raise any concerns with the Ethiopian Government.

EU External Trade: Rainforests

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of recent progress by the EU in negotiating further Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade voluntary partnership agreements with rainforest nations. [91669]

Mr O'Brien: Negotiations of Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) voluntary partnership agreements (VPA) have been concluded with Ghana, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Liberia and Indonesia. Formal negotiations on partnerships are under way with four countries: Malaysia, Vietnam, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The European Union is also in preliminary discussions with Thailand, Lao PDR, Cote d'Ivoire, Guyana, Honduras, Colombia and Ecuador; and these may result in new negotiations this year and next.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92126]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development has published a selection of information released in response to Freedom of Information requests on its website. All such information is published on a dedicated page. It is not possible to calculate the average time taken between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. DFID does not retain information on the dates of changes made to this part of its website to allow such a calculation to be made.

India: Tuberculosis

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of recent reports of an outbreak of totally drug resistant tuberculosis in India. [91824]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK attaches great importance to the control of all forms of drug resistant tuberculosis (TB), which pose a significant public health hazard. We fund the World Health Organisation (WHO) to provide technical support to the Government of India on TB control.

WHO is working closely with the Indian Government to better understand the clinical situation of affected patients and give public health advice to protect patients, families, care-givers and the community. The local health authorities are mounting an effective public health response, including:

(a) mandatory notification of all TB cases from labs and providers,

(b) finding and treating any known multi-drug resistant (MDR) and extremely drug resistant (XDR) TB cases,

(c) immediate universal access to free MDR and XDR TB diagnosis and treatment in Mumbai,

(d) strengthening basic TB control in the city, with a major investment in systems, people, and infrastructure.

Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to the overseas territories of other countries in each of the last 10 years. [92052]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides no bilateral funding to overseas territories of other countries. However, DFID provides the United Kingdom's contribution to the European Development Fund (EDF). The EDF provides development support to African, Caribbean and Pacific states as well as to EU member states' overseas countries and territories, including British overseas territories. Each EDF agreement provides funding over a four or five year period.

EDF allocations to all EU member states' overseas countries and territories since 1998, including the UK's contribution to these allocations, is set out as follows:

			£ million
	Period of allocation	*Contribution*	*UK's approximate contribution*
EDF 8	1998 to 2003	165	21
EDF 9	2003 to 2007	175	22
EDF10	2008 to 2013	285	42

Overseas Territories: Business

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department gives to small businesses in British Overseas Territories. [92013]

Mr Duncan: Providing support to small business development is a key element of the Department for International Development's (DFID) assistance to British Overseas Territories that are in receipt of financial aid. These businesses are a priority for the aid programme because they are critical to increasing the role of the private sector in driving economic growth. This is especially important for Montserrat and St. Helena, where dependence on UK aid transfers is greatest.

This year, DFID is providing £500,000 to the St. Helena Development Agency so that it can support new business development on the island. In addition, we are providing support to tourism development activities to get the island ready for the airport which is scheduled to open in late 2015. In Montserrat, we are providing around £700,000 this year to help small businesses secure access to finance to assist their businesses in tourism and other key sectors.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had any discussions with the Sri Lankan government on *(a)* the human rights situation in the North and East of that country and *(b)* access to those areas for independent human rights monitors. [92572]

Mr Duncan: Ministers at the Department for International Development have not had any discussions with the Sri Lankan Government on the human rights situation in the North and East of that country, or on access to those areas for independent human rights monitors. The high commission in Colombo, however, regularly meets with the Sri Lankan Government to discuss a range of human rights issues, including access for monitors.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the post-conflict humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka; and whether he has discussed with the Sri Lankan Government any proposals to improve the situation. [92573]

Mr Duncan: The UK continues to have concerns about human rights in Sri Lanka, including disappearances and extra-judicial killings, arbitrary arrests and restrictions on free expression. Ministers at the Department for International Development have not held discussions with the Sri Lankan Government. Ministers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and our high commission in Colombo continue to raise the matter with the Sri Lankan Government.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* assessment he has made of and *(b)* discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan government on food security and shelter for people from the North and East of that country. [92576]

Mr Duncan: The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is one of the main providers of humanitarian assistance in Sri Lanka. Its shelter grant project continues to help people from the North and East restart their lives; including through livelihoods support.

Ministers at the Department for International Development have not had any recent discussions with the Sri Lankan Government on food security and shelter for people from the North and East of that country, but the high commission in Colombo has regular discussions with the World Food Programme about the situation in Sri Lanka and continues to raise the importance of ensuring internally displaced people are living in adequate conditions.

Tanzania: Radar

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance BAE Systems has sought from his Department on the oversight of the £29.5 million the company was required to pay to the Government of Tanzania following its conviction of financial offences connected with the sale of a radar system to Tanzania; when he expects the payment to be made; and whether BAE Systems will pay interest earned on the sum over the period since the court ordered the payment to be made. [92405]

Mr O'Brien: BAE Systems has requested the Department for International Development's (DFID) assistance to work with the Government of Tanzania to finalise the details on the specific use of the funds and ensure the appropriate procurement, monitoring, reporting and audit arrangements are in place. At DFID's suggestion, BAE Systems will be party to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) governing these arrangements, together with the Government of Tanzania, DFID and the UK's Serious Fraud Office.

The MoU and annexes are close to being finalised and are expected to be signed in February. Under the provisions of the MoU, the payment must be made within 14 banking days of signature by all parties and will include the interest accrued on the sum before it is transferred by BAE Systems.

Third Sector

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to ensure Compact compliance in determining the future of his Department's relationship with the educational charity TIDE. [92194]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID) funding relationship with the educational charity TIDE ended in August 2010 following the findings of the 2009 "Review of building support for development through the education system" completed by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The process to arrive at a decision to terminate this funding relationship, and its implementation, were based on the guidance in the Third Sector Compact. All recommendations of the 2009 review, including the proposal to terminate the "Enabling Effective Support" programme (through which TIDE received DFID funding) were subject to three months consultation prior to the decision to terminate the programme. The findings of this consultation, together with the decision to terminate the programme, were published on the DFID website on 18 January 2010. All projects were given a seven month grace period to complete activities prior to the withdrawal.

Tuberculosis: Drugs

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on progress made by UNITAID to *(a)* triple access to rapid tests for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and *(b)* significantly reduce the price of drug-resistant tuberculosis medicines. [92135]

Mr O'Brien: UNITAID is having a positive impact on markets for TB drugs, including for multi drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). With UNITAID funding, new laboratory infrastructure has been established in 18 countries. 10 of these are routinely diagnosing MDR-TB. Using state-of-the-art tests provided through UNITAID's support. We expect countries to have detected approximately 12,000 MDR-TB cases by the end of 2011 compared with only 2,300 MDR-TB cases notified by these same countries in 2008.

To provide faster treatment and stop the spread of MDR-TB, UNITAID supports a Strategic Rotating Stockpile (SRS) of 5,800 patient treatments. Treatment delivery time for urgent orders has been reduced from over 100 days to less than 30 with SRS.

But the price of anti-TB medicines remains high, especially for MDR-TB. The costs of active pharmaceutical ingredients and oil for the manufacturing process have increased. Nonetheless, 15 out of 16 first-line TB medicines have shown reduced or maintained prices from 2009 and as more cases are detected, the size of the second-line market will increase, making it more attractive to generic manufacturers. The addition of four new quality generic suppliers of existing MDR-TB medicines is already improving the sustainability of the market for these medicines. Any movements in prices will be reported by UNITAID in the coming months once the data are collected and verified.

World Bank

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the World Bank on the World Development Report 2013 on jobs. [92222]

Mr O'Brien: In the UK's statement to the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the World Bank, the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), made clear that we welcome the planned World Development Report 2013 on jobs. Jobs are the lynch-pin in translating economic growth into effective poverty reduction.

We have encouraged the World Bank to deliver a report that is built on solid evidence and analysis and that provides very clear policy-options for stimulating job-creation, not least for poor women and in fragile states. Officials have been instructed to continue technical consultations with the bank over the coming months to this effect.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

British Constitution

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether a commission on the UK's constitutional future was discussed by delegates at the most recent meetings of the *(a)* British-Irish Council and *(b)* Joint Ministerial Council. [92549]

The Deputy Prime Minister: No such commission was discussed at the most recent meetings of either the British-Irish Council or the Joint Ministerial Council.

The published communiqués for both meetings set out details of the matters discussed. These can be found at:

http://www.britishirishcouncil.org/communiqu%C3%A9s/communiqu%C3%A9-17th-bic-summit-dublin

and

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/joint-ministerial-committee-%E2%80%93-communique

TREASURY

Bank of Ireland

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has had any discussions with the Financial Services Authority on the interests of Bank of Ireland bondholders in Unsecured Perpetual Subordinated Bonds originally issued by the Bristol and West Building Society. [79334]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* Treasury Ministers and officials meet senior members of the Financial Services Authority on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of economic and financial issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

Business: Disclosure of Information

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on project-by-project reporting of contracts between governments and extractive industry companies; [92137]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in other EU member states on financial transparency in corporate dealings. [92138]

Mr Gauke: As the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), have made clear, the UK is pressing for requirements to be placed on EU extractives companies to disclose the payments they make to foreign governments. EU discussions on this subject are ongoing and officials are engaging with the European Commission and EU member states on this issue.

Child Care Tax Credit

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many women he estimates will leave employment as a result of child care support being reduced from 80 to 70 per cent. of cost. [91190]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 25 January 2012]:* The information requested is not available.

Community Development Tax Relief

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 33W, on community development tax relief, what assessment he has made of the ways in which the Community Investment Tax Relief is not as effective as it could be; and if he will make a statement. [92506]

Mr Gauke: The Government are in the process of informally consulting on Community Investment Tax Relief.

EU Budget: Contributions

Mr Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the net contribution of each *(a)* nation and *(b)* region to the EU Budget in each of the last five years. [92808]

Mr Hoban: Details of the UK contributions to the EU budget, including net contributions, are published in the annual European Union Finances documents. The most recent of these were published in December 2011, presenting figures from 2005 to 2011, and they are available on HM Treasury's public website

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/int_eu_statefraud.htm

Details of other member states' contributions can be found in the European Commission's annual EU Budget Financial Reports. The most recent report was published in October 2011

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/publications/2010/fin_report/fin_report_10_en.pdf

Excise Duties: Beer

Bob Stewart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the brewing industry of the rate of beer duty. [92216]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Revenue and Customs estimate the effects of changes in duty on prices and, from there, the overall demand effects. These results are published in the following technical paper:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/alcohol-consumption-uk.pdf

In addition the new high and low strength Beer Duty rates introduced in October 2011 are likely to result in a move to produce and consume lower strength beers.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines.

Financial Services Authority

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fines have been levied by the Financial Services Authority in each of the last five years. [92412]

Mr Hoban: This is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent of Government. I have asked the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issue he raises. A copy of the response will be placed in the Library of the House.

Individual Savings Accounts

Duncan Hames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the individual annual limit on investments in Individual Savings Accounts was in each tax year since their introduction. [92949]

Mr Hoban: The annual subscription limits of Individual Savings Accounts for each tax year since their introduction in 1999 are published in Table 1 of the HMRC ISA Statistics, which can be found at the following link:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/isa/ISA_Statistics-November_2011.pdf

National Insurance: Numbers

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints HM Revenue and Customs has received in respect of duplicate national insurance numbers given in the last five years; and how many of these cases resulted in *(a)* the wrong tax code being given, *(b)* arrears being due from affected individuals and *(c)* refunds being due to affected individuals. [92521]

Mr Gauke: The NI number is unique to one individual. HMRC and DWP have a robust set of processes in place to ensure duplicate NI numbers are not incorrectly allocated to individuals.

NI identities may become confused if two or more people end up using the same NI number. However, where confusion is identified action is promptly taken to establish the reason for the confusion and to identify the true owner.

It would require a manually intensive trawl and be disproportionately expensive to identify the number of complaints received in HMRC over the last five years from individuals whose NI identity may have been confused, subsequently resulting in HMRC issuing incorrect tax codes, billing or payments.

Older People: Finance

Paul Maynard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of gross national income is spent on services for the elderly. [92096]

Mr Hoban: Many public services are shared across groups, for example expenditure on roads. It is therefore not possible to provide a clear split between the proportion of national income spent on any particular age group. However, the Office for National Statistics publish an allocation of some public services to households in 'The Effect of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income, 2009-10'. This includes an analysis of certain benefits in kind for non-retired and retired households for expenditure in 2009-10.

PAYE

Sir Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many First Tier Tax Tribunal cases have been brought against HM Revenue and Customs in respect of penalty charges for late receipt of P35 returns; in how many of these tribunals the appellant was successful; and what cost was incurred to the public purse in legal and administrative costs for these tribunals. [92947]

Mr Gauke: HMRC's records show that the First-tier Tribunal received 154 appeals against P35 penalties in 2010-11 and decided 82. The appellant was wholly or partially successful in 22 cases (27%).

Taxpayers can ask the independent tax tribunals to hear their appeal where they consider that HMRC has made an incorrect decision.

The information relating to cost is not available.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which tax office will take over the work of the Bristol office following its closure. [92934]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) currently has four offices in Bristol. On 25 January HMRC confirmed that Norfolk House, Bristol will close during the 2013-14 financial year. This follows feasibility work which considered the impact of closure on staff and the business. The intention is for staff to relocate with their work to The Crescent Centre, Temple Back, Bristol. Enquiry Centre services will remain in the locality.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria he took into account in determining the tax offices for closure before 2015. [92933]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) business planning determines the requirements for accommodation during the spending review (SR) period. This includes projected reductions in staffing levels over the SR period, where HMRC lines of business have indicated they do not want to retain a presence, where staff numbers are too low for the office to be cost effective or where HMRC can take advantage of forthcoming lease breaks. When any offices are proposed for closure, feasibility and equality impact assessment work is undertaken before a final decision is made. This includes one-to-one meetings between staff and their managers to ensure that their personal circumstances are taken into account; analysis of equality data to highlight areas of risk or significant impact; and estates work to consider the planning and implementation aspects of closure.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the proportion of calls answered of reductions in staffing at HM Revenue and Customs. [92644]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is fully committed to improving service for customers. The percentage of call attempts handled by its contact centres April to December 2011 has risen to 74% compared to just 44% during the same period last year.

HMRC plans to continue to improve its level of service over the 2010 spending review period.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what level of access to HM Revenue and Customs' tax credit computer system staff employed by Teleperformance at the Bathgate contact centre will have; [92385]

(2) what level of access to HM Revenue and Customs' tax credit computer system staff employed by Sitel at the Lillyhall contact centre will have; [92386]

(3) how many tax credit claimants' personal details employees of Teleperformance will have access to under the terms of HM Revenue and Customs' contract with Teleperformance to provide call handling services at the Bathgate contact centre; [92387]

(4) how many tax credit claimants' personal details employees of Sitel will have access to under the terms of HM Revenue and Customs' contract with Sitel to provide call handling services at the Lillyhall contact centre. [92388]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Livingston (Graeme Morrice) on 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 70W.

Export Controls

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what powers the Government has to seize shipments of strategic goods passing through UK ports where they are bound for *(a)* embargoed and *(b)* non-embargoed destinations. [92805]

Mr Gauke: Enforcement of strategic export controls is the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency. The powers to seize shipments of strategic goods are contained in the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979. Section 68 of that Act makes it an offence to export or bring to a place of export any goods the exportation of which would be contrary to any prohibition or restriction in force; contravention of section 68 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 renders the goods liable to forfeiture. Officers of HM Revenue and Customs and UK Border Agency can seize the goods under section 139 of the same Act. The same powers apply for both embargoed and non-embargoed destinations.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department issues on the circumstances in which shipments of strategic goods identified as destined for an embargoed destination may be released when passing through UK ports. [92806]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has internal guidance in place for HMRC and UKBA staff dealing with strategic exports to both embargoed and non-embargoed destinations. The guidance is that it is normally appropriate to immediately seize unlicensed strategic goods once it has been established that goods require an export licence or are otherwise in breach of sanctions or embargoes.

Strategic goods destined for an embargoed destination would normally only be released for export on production of an export licence issued by the Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Innovation, and Skills. Strategic goods destined for embargoed destinations would only be released without a licence where the goods were not subject to control or where a legal exemption existed.

Tax Allowances: Unemployment

Jim Shannon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has had discussions with the CBI on its proposal to introduce a tax incentive young Britain credit for firms taking on unemployed people aged 16 to 24; and if he will introduce such a tax incentive. [92336]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

A list of ministerial meetings with external organisations is published quarterly on the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

On 25 November 2011, the Government announced an ambitious programme for tackling youth unemployment. Starting in spring, the Youth Contract will deliver:

an additional 250,000 work experience or sector based work academy places for every unemployed 18 to 24-year-old;

more Jobcentre Plus support for 18 to 24-year-olds, including extra advisor time and a careers interview from the National Careers Service and weekly, rather than fortnightly, signing;

a total of 160,000 wage incentive places (at £2,275 each) to make it easier for employers to take on young people. This has been welcomed by the CBI and is more generous than their proposal of incentive payments of £1,500;

additional funding to support the growth of 16-24 apprenticeships, ensuring the funding for at least 40,000 incentive payments (at £1,500 each) for employers next year to raise demand for 16-24 apprenticeships; and

a new £50 million a year programme for those 16 and 17-year-olds not in employment, education or training to get them learning, on an apprenticeship or in a job with training.

Tax Collection

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices on the collection of tax revenues. [92932]

Mr Gauke: To meet the efficiencies required by the spending review (SR) settlement, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is making changes to the way it delivers its business objectives. By 2015 it will be a smaller, highly skilled department working across fewer sites with an increased focus on compliance.

HMRC is committed to bringing in an additional £7 billion a year by 2014-15 and this is being achieved by the expansion and transformation of compliance activity across the country. Enforcement and Compliance is expected to increase its staff by 2,500 between 2011 and 2015. This will take place against a background of an overall reduction in HMRC numbers and offices and the majority of new posts will be filled by internal redeployment from business areas which are contracting.

The office closures occurring during the SR period to 2015 reflect the fact that there will be 10,000 fewer staff and HMRC can make more efficient use of space across its entire estate and make savings.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Trust

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the economic value to the Carbon Trust of its branding. [91775]

Gregory Barker: The Department has not made an assessment of the economic value to the Carbon Trust of its branding.

However, under the terms and conditions of DECC's grant to the Carbon Trust, a private company limited by guarantee, the trust must comply with European state aid rules and ensure that use of grant does not unlawfully subsidise any commercial activity.

Departmental Training

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many away days his Department has held since May 2010; and what the cost was of each event. [92943]

Gregory Barker: We have interpreted away day to include team and group away days and requested replies as such:

Total number of away days—42

Total cost of away days—£72,801

Total number of staff attending—1800

Average cost per head—£40.50

Away days are an investment by teams in planning, improving performance or enhancing skills and business relationships.

The change of environment and the time spent together without distractions allows teams to focus on their challenges.

While facilitators are not always used, they provide structure and purpose to the day. They are used very successfully in the private and public sector as a productive means of meeting a team's objectives.

Event date	*Event title/function*	*Event venue*	*Number of staff attended*	*Event costs (£)*
15 June 2010 and 5 November 2010	Finance away days— Business planning	BIS Conference Centre, Victoria Street, SW1	[1]30	[2]320
25 June 2010	CESA (Team 1) away day	Reading Uni	10	175
14 July 2010	International Energy and Climate Change (IECC)—group away day	London Wetlands Centre, Barnes, London	105	7,055.58
29 July 2010	IECC Senior Leadership Away Day—to strengthen the senior leadership team, facilitated by an executive coach and including the hire of facilities.	Coin Street Community Building, London	10	3,759.48
5 August 2010	Energy Markets and Infrastructure (EMI) Directors Business Planning Meeting	Commonwealth Club, Northumberland Avenue	12	478.03
10 August 2010	CESA (Team 2) away day	Mothers Union	8	403.68
27 September 2010	Science and Innovation Group—team building	National Physical Laboratory	41	838.62
4 October 2010	EMI SCS event to discuss EMI objectives and the year ahead and CSR/addressing staff issues	Institute of Government, Carlton Gardens, SW1	30	803.75
8 October 2010	EMI All staff (London) event—to understand EMI objectives, update on people plan and discuss CSR concerns	BIS Conference Centre	225	2,575
15 December 2010	EMI Directors business planning meeting	Commonwealth Club, Northumberland Avenue, SW1	13	767.25
27 January 2011	Strategy directorate away day	Fulham Craven cottage meeting room	30	1,304
16 February 2011	Strategic analysis volunteering day	London Wildlife Trust, Camley Street National Park, 12 Camley Street, London N1 4PW	22	1,276
16 March 2011	Green deal teams all staff event	Civil Services Sports and Leisure Centre	46	450
18 March 2011	Coal liabilities unit (CLU) away day (EDU Directorate)	Dexter House 2 Royal Mint Court Tower Hill	20	1,200
14 April 2011	OCCS staff away day	BIS Conference Centre	70	810
18 April 2011	Finance team away day	One Great George Street	45	2,503.50
9 May 2011	Planning and performance away day	BIS Conference Centre	15	334.50
23 May 2011	DECC Legal offsite event	Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre, London SE1 9NH	45	4,517.40
23 May 2011	Commercial team away day	Virtual Office Group	8	346.80
16 June 2011	Feed-in tariffs away day	Coventry	8	[3]500
26 June 2011	EMN team leaders away day	Wallacespace 2 Dryden Street, London WC2E 9NA	16	1,286.40
31 August 2011	ICC away day	St Martins in the Field	45	1,132.25
1 September 2011	Press Office and Ecomms teams away day	Wallacespace, 2 Dryden Street, London WC2E 9NA	13	1,148
12 September 2011	L and D board away day	Broadway House	12	512
28 September 2011	NDSD away day	Old Admiralty	40	347.40
29 September 2011	Energy Markets and Infrastructure (EMI) directors event to discuss priorities and risks for year head and working better as a team and across DECC	The Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1	12	1,891
4 October 2011	EMI SCS Event to prepare for all staff event on 7 October 2011—discuss EMI objectives and priorities for the year ahead and update on the EMI people plan	Institute for Government, Carlton Gardens, London , SW1	29	747.00
7 October 2011	EMI all staff (London) event—To explain EMI priorities and objectives for the year ahead and update on the EMI people plan	BIS Conference Centre	[4]250	2,431.25
7 October 2011	Smart Meters programme	BIS Conference Centre	80-90	2,698
21 October 2011	SEG away day	ETC Venue	150	9,000
26 October 2011	EMN team leaders away day	Wallacespace, 2 Dryden Street, London WC2E 9NA	11	1,082.40

Event date	*Event title/function*	*Event venue*	*Number of staff attended*	*Event costs (£)*
4 November 2011	ICCEE Group senior leadership forum post DECC restructure	Devonport House Hotel	8	3,900
9 November 2011	Energy Markets and Infrastructure (EMI) directors business planning meeting	The Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1	14	688.00
14 November 2011	Heat and industry away day	St Martins in the Field	30-50	2,994
17 November 2011	Offshore inspectorate planning event	210 Bistro Business Centre	20	1,248
29 November 2011	Future electricity networks away day	National Grid, Wokingham	14	330.88
30 November 2011	Energy economics analysis away day	Eastbury House, London	20	290.58
15 December 2011	Finance team away day	One Great George Street	35	1,215.60
17 January 2012	EMM all staff away day	One Drummond Gate, Victoria, London, SW1V 2QQ	95	6,802
18/01/12	Away session for programme support and delivery team in green deal directorate	Southwark Cathedral Conference Centre	18	576
19 January 2012	Office for Nuclear Development away day	Thistle Hotel Westminster	[4]50	2,062

[1] 30 At each.

[2] For both.

[3] Travel only

[4] Approximate.

Departmental Work Experience

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what work experience or traineeship schemes his Department offers to minority groups. [92754]

Gregory Barker: DECC participates in the "Whitehall Internship" programme which offers placements to people including college students and under graduates from underrepresented groups including black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. So far we have had three placements for 16 to 18-year-olds (and will be taking the same number again this year) and in addition we will be offering two graduate and undergraduate age placements this summer (2012).

We have also offered two, week long, placements for school age (under 16) through the Access Project in 2011 which aims to improve disadvantaged students' chances of gaining places at "Russell Group" universities.

Environmental Transformation Fund

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the long-term finance from the Environmental Transformation Fund for developing countries was delivered through *(a)* his Department, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(c)* multilateral agencies between 2008-09 and 2010-11. [92522]

Gregory Barker: The International Window of the Environmental Transformation Fund provided £800 million of international climate finance for developing countries between 2008-09 and 2010-11. £400 million was provided from DECC's budget and £400 million from DFID. All of the finance was delivered through multilateral agencies: £735 million to the Climate Investment Funds; £50 million to the Congo Basin Forest Fund; and £15 million to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of pensioner households in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK were in fuel poverty (i) in each year since 2000 and (ii) on the latest date for which information is available. [91702]

Gregory Barker: Fuel poverty is a devolved measurement and each country of the UK is responsible for measuring the number of fuel poor households in their own country. The method for estimating whether a householder is a pensioner differs between countries. The following tables show the number of fuel poor households (in thousands) containing a pensioner in each year since 2000 for which they have been measured. Fuel poverty figures for England for 2010 will be published in May 2012. Figures for Wales and Northern Ireland are not produced every year, so it is not possible to produce a consistent UK based estimate. The 2010 figures for Scotland were based on fuel prices at the time. Fuel prices have since increased.

Number of pensioner households in fuel poverty

Thousand

	England	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Northern Ireland*
2010	n/a	357	n/a	n/a
2009	2,045	438	n/a	149
2008	1,720	344	135	n/a
2007	1,462	361	n/a	n/a
2006	1,285	324	n/a	115
2005	794	224	n/a	n/a
2004	604	n/a	54	78
2003	634	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	1,058	n/a	n/a	82
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Percentage of pensioner households in fuel poverty

Percentage

	England	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Northern Ireland*
2010	n/a	48	n/a	n/a
2009	26	57	n/a	62
2008	22	46	42	n/a
2007	18	51	n/a	n/a
2006	17	44	n/a	47
2005	11	30	n/a	n/a
2004	8	n/a	18	38

Percentage of pensioner households in fuel poverty

Percentage

	England	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Northern Ireland*
2003	9	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	15	n/a	n/a	37
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Green Deal Scheme

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with HM Treasury on the use of the £200 million additional funding recently announced to incentivise take-up of the Green Deal. [92666]

Gregory Barker: My officials are in the process of considering options for how to use the £200 million funding to incentivise uptake of the Green Deal, and have had a number of discussions with HM Treasury on this matter.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 622W, on solar power: feed-in tariffs, what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of legal proceedings arising from the decision to reduce feed-in tariffs for solar energy including costs relating to the appeal. [92769]

Gregory Barker: We estimate that the Government have incurred costs of approximately £66,400 to date; this includes the cost of the first hearing as well as the recent appeal court hearing.

If the Supreme Court agrees to hear our case then we will incur more costs, however, if the Supreme Court then ultimately finds in our favour, we will expect to recover all or a substantial proportion of our costs.

We are doing this to protect consumers bills, the annual cost to consumers if we did not act could be £100 million per year—more than a 1,000 times our legal costs to date. The cost of defending ourselves in court pales in comparison to the £1.5 billion additional lifetime cost if we do not act.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent from the public purse on legal proceedings in respect of his decision to reduce rates for solar feed-in tariffs; what the cost was for each *(a)* trial and *(b)* appeal stage of the legal process; and what estimate he has made of the total overall cost of the proceedings relating to the (i) seeking permission to appeal to the Supreme Court and (ii) any subsequent appeal to the Supreme Court. [92939]

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the costs to the public purse has been of legal fees arising from each stage of the judicial review proceedings relating to its feed-in tariffs proposals. [92961]

Gregory Barker: We estimate that the Government have incurred costs of approximately £66,400 to date; this includes the cost of approximately £58,000 up to the point of judgment in the High Court and a further £8,400 to include the recent hearing in the Court of Appeal.

If the Supreme Court agrees to hear our case then we will incur more costs, but it is not possible to estimate this cost at this stage. If the Supreme Court ultimately finds in our favour, we will expect to recover all or a substantial proportion of our costs. We are doing this to protect consumers bills, the annual cost to consumers if we did not act could be £100 million per year—more than a 1000 times our legal costs to date. The cost of defending ourselves in court pales in comparison to the £1.5 billion additional lifetime cost if we do not act.

Warm Home Discount Scheme

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of the warm homes discount budget under the terms of the control framework for his Department's levy-funded spending that will be spent on *(a)* assisting those receiving the guarantee credit element of pension credit and *(b)* low income and vulnerable households at risk of fuel poverty in the next 12 month period for which figures are available. [92379]

Gregory Barker: The Warm Home Discount Scheme impact assessment sets out the levels of expenditure to assist households in or at risk of fuel poverty. These are shown in the following table by activity and scheme year. The next 12-month period for which figures are available is 2012-13. Those in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only, or aged 80 and over and in receipt of both pension credit guarantee/savings credit will be eligible to receive a Core Group discount in 2012-13. These pension credit recipients and other low income and vulnerable households may also receive assistance under the other elements of the scheme.

£ million

Expenditure type	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Core Group	97	143	159	190
Broader Group	3	47	88	90
Total Legacy Spending and Industry Initiatives Cap:	150	85	53	30
Legacy Spending Cap	140	70	35	0
Industry Initiatives Cap	30	30	30	30
Total	250	275	300	310

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Arms Trade: Libya

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) on what dates in February 2012 overseas trade missions in support of UK defence and security exports planned by the UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation to Libya are scheduled to take place; what the overall budget is for the mission; which companies will be represented on the mission; whether any companies have been sponsored by the Government to attend; and what the cost to the public purse was of sponsorship to each such company; [92940]

(2) if he will call for a robust Arms Trade treaty during the overseas trade missions to Libya in February 2012; and if he will make a statement. [92960]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) Defence & Security Organisation is organising a civil security trade mission to Libya near the end of February 2012. The Government are not sponsoring participating companies and costs will be largely offset by contributions by companies. The list of companies attending is not yet finalised.

Securing a robust Arms Trade treaty is a priority for this Government. Ministers of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills do not plan to accompany the civil security trade mission to Libya.

Business: Scotland

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department provided to small and medium-sized enterprises located in *(a)* Glasgow and *(b)* Scotland in the last two years. [92730]

Mr Prisk: In addition to general measures to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across the UK start up and grow, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has introduced a number of specific schemes to provide direct support to SMEs.

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) was introduced to help SMEs access the finance they need to start up and grow their businesses. This is a targeted measure aimed at enabling additional lending to viable SMEs that have insufficient security or proven track record with which to secure a normal commercial loan. We have announced continuation of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) scheme until 2014/15 providing, subject to demand, over £2 billion of additional lending over the next four years and the scheme was extended in January to include businesses with up to £44 million annual turnover, and to announce a number of new accredited lenders. Since the launch of the scheme until December 2011, 1,164 loans have been offered to SMEs in Scotland, totalling £162.78 million.

A new Export Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme (ExEFG) was also launched last year, providing up to £1 million of lending to support viable SME exporters who are unable to access a commercial loan. And to address the equity gap for early stage innovative SMEs with the highest growth potential, we have also announced the continuation of the Government's Enterprise Capital Funds programme, increasing our commitment by £200 million over the next four years and providing for more than £300 million of venture capital investment. As of 30 September 2011, 4% of investments (by number) under this programme were in Scotland.

With regard to support for exporting and trade promotion, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has lead responsibility for the UK as a whole for the provision of support and assistance to new and existing exporters of goods and services. In Scotland, Scottish Development International (SDI), funded by the Scottish Government, acts as our delivery partner for UKTI trade development services to Scottish based companies. To complement the UKTI offer, SDI additionally offers its own programme of services to Scottish businesses.

All UKTI trade services are available to companies based in Scotland, apart from Passport to Export and Gateway to Global Growth, which are only available to companies based in England (SDI provides their own equivalent service locally). This includes access to UKTI's overseas network in some 96 markets across the globe and services such as the Overseas Market Introduction Service taken up by 238 Scottish businesses in 2011/12 (to end December 2011), the Tradeshow Access Programme with 115 grants to Scottish companies in 2011/12 (to end December 2011), the Export Marketing Research Scheme and the Export Communication Review.

The Technology Strategy Board is the prime channel through which the Government support business-led technology innovation and has a UK-wide remit under which Scottish companies are able to apply on equal footing with applicants from other parts of the UK. The Technology Strategy Board provides support through the following programmes:

Collaborative research and development (R&D) projects—brings together businesses (from large corporate to micro companies) and academic partners to undertake R&D projects from which successful new products, processes and services can emerge. Projects range in value from £10,000 to over £100 million. Over 900 projects are currently being supported across the UK with a combined business and Government investment of over £1 billion (with just over half the funds committed by business).

Knowledge Transfer Networks—KTNs are over-arching national networks which aim to improve the UK's innovation performance by increasing the breadth and depth of the knowledge transfer of technology into UK-based businesses. KTNs play a vital role in making the necessary connections between the various players, helping industry to access knowledge and information central to innovation growth. The Technology Strategy Board provides support for 15 KTNs, which have over 43,000 business members (also have 14,000 non-business members).

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships—KTPs stimulate innovation through collaborative projects between business (including social enterprises) and the knowledge base by facilitating the transfer of knowledge and the spread of technical and business skills through projects undertaken by high calibre, recently qualified, people under the joint supervision of personnel from business and the knowledge base. There are currently over 900 live partnerships across the UK and approximately 75% of the partnerships involve SMEs.

Smart (previously known as Grant for R&D)—Smart offers funding to SMEs to engage in R&D projects from which successful new products, processes and services could emerge. Three types of grant are available: proof of market (up to £25,000 grant), proof of concept (up to £100,000 grant), and development of prototype (up to £250,000 grant).

Small Business Research Initiative—SBRI aims to provide business opportunities for innovative companies while solving the needs of Government Departments. The programme is designed to enable public bodies to fund the development of technology which will meet their future needs or policy objectives. It provides a structured approach and support for the procurement process when acquiring research and development work, particularly the vital engagement with industry.

Eureka—a pan-European initiative for promoting collaborative business-led R&D in fields of advanced technology, in a network encompassing 36 countries. The benefits for UK companies collaborating in Eureka include access to new technologies, the sharing of costs and risks, reduced timescales and access to new overseas markets.

Copyright: Education

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the compliance of the proposal in the Hargreaves Review to extend education copyright exceptions with the European Directive on Copyright and Related Rights in the Information Society 2001. [92159]

Mr Davey: The Government are clear that any modernisation to copyright law must be in compliance with EU law as set out in the Information Society Directive 2001/29/EC. The Government are currently in consultation on copyright modernisation, until 21 March 2012 and welcome additional evidence from interested parties. The consultation covers a wide range of copyright issues and sets out a large number of proposals, all of which are accompanied by impact assessments on the potential costs and benefits of various policy options.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with collecting societies on the proposals in the consultation on the Hargreaves Review to extend educational copyright exceptions; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the licence fee income for writers and publishers of such exceptions. [92226]

Mr Davey: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills my noble Friend the Baroness Wilcox, has regular discussions with the collecting societies on matters of interest to them. The Government's copyright consultation, which runs from 14 December to 21 March 2012, will provide an opportunity for interested organisations and individuals to contribute evidence and data to help inform more robust assessment and analysis of the options under consideration. The initial impact assessment, published alongside the consultation, provides an assessment of the potential costs and benefits for writers and publishers should changes to licensing schemes be made. The Government welcome additional economic evidence from interested parties of the likely effects of amending educational copyright exceptions on the licence fee income for writers and publishers, to help refine its analysis.

Education: Ex-servicemen

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department contributed towards tuition fees incurred by service leavers when fees exceeded the sums provided by the enhanced learning credits scheme in each year since 2007-08. [92532]

Mr Willetts: The enhanced learning credits scheme commenced in the 2009/10 academic year, and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) began making contributions to the scheme in the same year.

The scheme pays the course fees of service leavers undertaking higher education and further education courses, and contributions are made by the devolved Administrations and by the Department for Education (as appropriate), as well as BIS and the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills contributed £150,000 towards the scheme from its inception up to the end of 2010-11, and has contributed £88,000 so far in the 2011-12 financial year.

It is not possible to break down the total expenditure by year prior to 2010-11 up to the end of 2010-11 without disproportionate work and associated cost.

Exports: Gulf States

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department made of the value of *(a)* goods and *(b)* services exported to the Gulf from the UK in each of the last five years. [92673]

Mr Prisk: Using data published by the Office for National Statistics in Pink Book 2011, the estimated value of goods and services exported to the Gulf in the last five years for which data are available are shown in the table below. Data for 2011 are due for publication in summer 2012.

UK exports to the Arabian Gulf 2006-10

£ billion

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Goods	7.2	6.8	8.7	8.5	9.4
Services	5.1	5.2	6.0	6.5	7.1
Goods and services	12.3	11.9	14.7	15.0	16.4

Source:
ONS Pink Book 2011, tables 9.4 and 9.5. Arabian Gulf is the sum of data for Iran, Saudi Arabia and Residual Gulf Arabian Countries.

Financial Markets

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will add the reasons for recent changes in carbon prices to the terms of reference of Professor John Kay's independent review of investment in UK equity markets. [92890]

Mr Davey: The Kay Review has wide terms of reference examining behaviour and trends within the entire investment chain. The Government have no plans at this stage to include reasons for changes in carbon pricing within this.

Foreign Investment in UK: Glasgow

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of *(a)* the monetary value of foreign investment in (i) Glasgow and (ii) Glasgow South West constituency and *(b)* the number of jobs created as a consequence in each year since 2005. [91672]

Mr Prisk: UKTI do not collate statistics to that level for Scotland. Scottish Development International may be better placed to respond on this matter.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92113]

Mr Davey: Responses to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which are considered to be of wider public interest are published on the Department's website at

http://www.bis.gov.uk/site/foi/information-released

The Department does not publish a response to every FOI request it receives, but also maintains a Publication Scheme at

http://www.bis.gov.uk/site/foi/publication-scheme

as a means of providing access to information which is proactively published by the Department.

The Department does not have available, without incurring disproportionate cost, the average time taken to publish all responses currently on the website, but aims to publish responses within a reasonable period of time.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of university applications have come from each of the socio-economic classes A to D in each of the last five years. [92000]

Mr Willetts: The available information, provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), is shown in the following table. The table uses the POLAR2 (Participation of Local Areas), measure of the applicants' background. UCAS do not release applicant numbers by socio-economic classes A to D.

UK domiciled applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in the UK by POLAR2 adult higher education quintiles[1]

	Year of entry				
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
POLAR2 quintile					
1	58,653	67,206	75,753	83,566	84,466
2	76,023	84,964	93,430	102,367	102,961
3	89,114	97,466	107,414	115,914	115,886
4	104,645	112,799	122,038	131,294	130,315
5	120,052	128,521	137,079	146,408	146,904
All known	448,487	490,956	535,714	579,549	580,532
Unknown	5,661	11,505	8,571	7,272	8,818
Grand Total	454,148	502,461	544,285	586,821	589,350
Percentage of known[2]					
1	13.1	137	14.1	14.4	14.5
2	17.0	17.3	17.4	17.7	17.7
3	19.9	19.9	20.1	20.0	20.0
4	23.3	23.0	22.8	22.7	22.4
5	26.8	26.2	25.6	25.3	25.3
All	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] The POLAR2 (participation of local areas) measure was developed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). It ranks local areas by the proportion of adults who hold higher education qualifications, and splits them into quintiles, where quintile 1 includes the 20% of local areas with the lowest percentage of adults with Higher education (HE) qualifications, and quintile 5 includes the 20% of local areas with the highest percentage of adults with HE qualifications.

[2] Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source:
UCAS

Higher Education: Intellectual Property

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with Universities UK on the development of an easy access intellectual property (IP) scheme to permit free use of IP where it is not being utilised by the universities which created it. [92732]

Mr Davey: The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) leads on Intellectual Property (IP) questions within Government. It has a regular dialogue with UK universities on the protection, development and exploitation of IP assets.

IPO is gathering examples of different approaches to universities' IP management, including those which enable free use of IP where it is not being utilised by the universities which created it. One example is the approach used by the Easy Access Innovation Partnership—a collaboration between the University of Glasgow, King's College London and the University of Bristol which makes unused university IP available free of charge, through simple one-page agreements.

IPO will use its findings to develop best practice guidance for all UK universities.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the easy access intellectual property scheme operated by the University of Glasgow; and if he will make a statement. [92733]

Mr Davey: The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) leads on Intellectual Property (IP) questions within Government. The IPO welcomes innovative ideas for sharing Intellectual Property Assets in ways that stimulate wider economic growth.

IPO is supporting a collaboration between the University of Glasgow, King's College London and the University of Bristol in development of their 'Easy Access Innovation Partnership' project. Easy Access IP provides a radical new approach to the licensing of university IP by making it available free of charge, through simple one-page agreements.

IPO will be making an assessment of the Easy Access IP project once the period for which it provided support has ended. IPO will take forward lessons learned and continue to engage with stakeholders to improve management of IP and Knowledge Exchange in universities to deliver long term benefit to the UK economy and society.

Immigrants: Pay

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of migrants in the UK working for less than the minimum wage. [92590]

Mr Davey: Our policy is to ensure that all workers who are entitled to the national minimum wage (NMW)—whether migrant or non-migrant—receive it. HM Revenue & Customs investigate all complaints made to them about underpayment of the NMW, as well as working with other Government agencies, including the UK Borders Agency. Anyone who believes they are being underpaid should contact the Pay and Work Rights Helpline.

This Department does not hold the requested information.

Oil: Canada

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans for UK Trade and Investment missions related to Canadian oil sands developments. [91805]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment has no plans to organise a trade mission to Canada related to oil sands developments.

Overseas Trade: Saudi Arabia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of Anglo-Saudi trade in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2008. [91475]

Mr Prisk: Data published by the Office for National Statistics in their "Pink Book 2011" available on their website:

www.ons.gov.uk

shows the following value of trade between the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia:

Total trade in goods and services

			£ billion
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
UK exports of goods and services to Saudi Arabia	4.2	4.8	5.4
UK imports of goods and services from Saudi Arabia	1.3	0.9	1.0
Total bilateral trade in goods and services: UK and Saudi Arabia	5.5	5.7	6.4

Data for trade between England and Saudi Arabia are published by HM Revenue and Customs in Regional Trade Statistics available via the following website:

www.uktradeinfo.com

for goods trade only. Some trade cannot be allocated to a region, and therefore actual trade may be higher than the published values:

Trade in goods

			£ billion
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
England exports of goods to Saudi Arabia	2.0	2.2	2.6
England imports of goods from Saudi Arabia	0.6	0.6	0.8
Total bilateral trade in goods: England and Saudi Arabia	2.6	2.8	3.3

Post Offices

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of the funding allocated to the Post Office network will consist of network subsidy. [92697]

Mr Davey: It is expected that just under half of the funding for the Post Office network to 2015 will be utilised as network subsidy.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which services he expects to be withdrawn from post offices operating under the proposed Post Office Local model. [92698]

Mr Davey: Any changes in the range of services available at post offices which move to the Post Office local operating model will be operational decisions for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of the Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he proposes that his Department will hold consultations on its Post Office network proposals. [92699]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will not be holding consultations on the arrangements for modernising and investing in the post office network. This programme will be undertaken by Post Office Ltd and participation by sub postmasters will be voluntary. Post Office Ltd has a code of practice agreed with Consumer Focus covering the local consultation and communication processes that are undertaken when there are changes to the branches in the network and this is currently being reviewed by the two organisations in the light of the forthcoming investment and modernisation programme.

Post Offices: Pay

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the funding of the Post Office network is allocated to payments to retiring sub-postmasters. [92696]

Mr Davey: Funding is in place to modernise and invest in the Post Office network but changes to the operating model and ownership of individual branches will take place within a voluntary programme. There is therefore no predetermined proportion of the funding allocated to that specific category of expenditure.

Post Offices: Wrexham

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on which post offices in Wrexham constituency Post Office Ltd plans to operate on the Local model. [92695]

Mr Davey: None. Decisions on which post office operating model is appropriate to individual branches are operational matters for Post Office Ltd.

Public Houses

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on *(a)* community pubs and *(b)* the introduction of a statutory code of practice for pubs. [92555]

Mr Davey: On 16 June 2011 I discussed a range of matters relating to public houses with the Minister responsible for communities and pubs, the Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill), including the potential introduction of a statutory code of practice.

Students: Fees and Charges

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether it is his policy that a university student who has to defer his or her degree course for medical reasons will be charged tuition fees set at the level appertaining at the time of his or her original application. [92956]

Mr Willetts: Students who resume a course that they began in or before the 2011/12 academic year but had suspended it (with the agreement of their university or college) for medical reasons will be charged for tuition under the same arrangements that applied to them when they began the course.

The new tuition charge arrangements will apply to those students who have accepted a place at university for the 2011/12 academic year but have deferred starting the course until 1 September 2012 or after.

Technology and Innovation Centres

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) where the Connected Digital Economy Catapult centre will be located; [92880]

(2) whether he has appointed a leadership team for the Connected Digital Economy Catapult centre. [92881]

Mr Willetts: The decision to establish the Connected Digital Economy Catapult Centre was announced on 26 January. During this year the Technology Strategy Board will be taking the steps to establish the centre and this will include confirmation of the scope, work on the detailed activities for the centre, the appointment of the leadership team and making the decision on the location of the centre itself.

CABINET OFFICE

Charities: Registration

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the effect of the number of charity registrations on the delivery of the Big Society initiative. [92511]

Mr Hurd: According to Charity Commission data the total number of registered charities has remained relatively stable in recent years, being 160,515, 162,415 and 161,649 in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. In 2010-11 (the last full year for which figures are available) 5,589 new charities were registered.

Charities and other civil society organisations have an important part to play in the Big Society. While it would be difficult to draw any firm conclusions from the data, it is encouraging to see new charities being established and registered.

Employment: Disability

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many disabled people were in paid work in *(a)* Barnsley, *(b)* South Yorkshire and *(c)* England and Wales in the most recent period for which figures are available. [92937]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many disabled people were in paid work in (a) Barnsley, (b) South Yorkshire and (c) England and Wales in the most recent period for which figures are available (92937).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of people identifying themselves as disabled who were in employment and resident in (a) Barnsley, (b) South Yorkshire and (c) England and Wales, for the 12 month period ending in June 2011, from the APS, the most recent period for which figures are available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in the table.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of disabled[1] people in employment resident in (a), Barnsley, (b) South Yorkshire and (c) England and Wales, 12 months ending June 2011

	Thousand
England and Wales	*3775
South Yorkshire	*98
Barnsley	***17

[1] People who are DDA disabled or have a work limiting disability Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likey to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 = CV <5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are consideredprecise

** 5 = CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considerd reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV = 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Government Departments: Consultants

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether *(a)* KPMG and *(b)* other consultancy firms have supplied staff to Government departments without payment in each of the last five years. [92095]

Mr Hurd: During 2010-11 Cabinet Office renegotiated contracts with a number of central Government's large portfolio suppliers on behalf of the Crown. This renegotiation resulted in Deloitte, KPMG, Ernst and Young and PWC agreeing to forgo some of their normal payments as part of their contribution to the efficiency savings. We do not hold data on prior years.

Lone Parents

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of households in *(a)* Poplar and Limehouse constituency, *(b)* Tower Hamlets and *(c)* the UK are single parent households. [92968]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of households in (a) Poplar and Limehouse constituency, (b) Tower Hamlets and (c) the UK are single parent households (92968).

The number and type of households in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey. The percentage of households which are lone parent households with at least one dependent child are provided.

Data are shown for Poplar and Limehouse constituency, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the UK in 2010.

Percentage of households which are lone parent households with dependent children in Poplar and Limehouse constituency, Tower Hamlets and the UK, 2010

Area	*Percentage*
Poplar and Limehouse	7.9
Tower Hamlets	7.5
UK	7.1

Note:

Dependent children are those living with their parent(s) and either (a) aged under 16, or (b) aged 16 to 18 in full-time education, excluding children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Annual Population Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when the Minister for political and constitutional reform plans to reply to the letters of 8 November and 7 December 2011 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay regarding a constituent, Mrs Ruocco-Daley. [90934]

Mr Harper *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* I replied to my hon. Friend's letters yesterday.

Septicaemia: Death

Jim Shannon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have died from septicaemia in England and Wales in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [92236]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women have died from septicaemia in England and Wales in each of the last three years for which figures are available. (92236)

Table 1 provides the number of deaths for males and females where septicaemia was the underlying cause, for the years 2008 to 2010 (the latest available year).

Septicaemia is a condition which often develops in those with an existing serious illness. In these cases, septicaemia will be recorded on the death certificate as a condition that has contributed to a death, but it will not be the underlying cause. Table 2 shows the number of deaths where septicaemia was mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor.

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age, cause, marital status and place of death are published annually and are available here:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-27475

Table 1. Number of deaths where septicaemia was the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 2008-10[1,2,3]

			Deaths
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Male	981	996	938
Female	1,236	1,284	1,245

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was Septicaemia (includes meningococcaemia, streptococcal septicaemia and other septicaemia) ICD codes A39.2-A39.4, A40-A41.

[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are based on deaths registered in each calendar year.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Table 2. Number of deaths where septicaemia was the underlying cause of death or mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, England and Wales, 2008-10[1,2,3,4]

			Deaths
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Male	11,697	11,648	11,244
Female	14,563	14,027	13,829

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where Septicaemia was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate (includes meningococcaemia, streptococcal septicaemia and other septicaemia) ICD codes A39.2-A39.4, A40-A41.

[2] Table 2 includes the deaths presented in table 1.

[3] Figures include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are based on deaths registered in each calendar year.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will initiate a cross-government strategy to maximise the use of public sector assets to promote community and social action; and if he will make a statement. [91350]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Government are funding the Asset Transfer Unit to promote best practice across England and provide advice and expertise on matters relating to asset transfer to community ownership and management. The Unit also managed the recently completed Advancing Assets for Communities demonstration programme which has supported the development of local asset transfer strategies, policies and procedures aimed at communities taking over local authority assets, by providing tailored support to 92 local authority/community partnerships.

The new community rights contained in the Localism Act will give communities the opportunities to influence development in their areas, bid to buy local assets that are important to them and bid to run local services differently and better. We are currently procuring for an expert delivery agent to deliver a three-year programme to support communities that want to take up these rights.

In addition, through our work with 11 areas round the country on Capital and Assets Pathfinders, areas have shown how a local joined up approach to public sector assets helps strengthen the sustainability of the voluntary and community sector. This approach is supported across Government Departments and is now led by the sector.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92291]

Mr Hurd: The Office for Civil Society (OCS) in the Cabinet Office is responsible for the Compact on behalf of Government. This responsibility includes:

acting as the sponsor department for Compact Voice, (who act as the voice of the voluntary sector on the Compact, with a network of over 2,300 members) including hosting regular governance meetings between me and the Chair of Compact Voice to report on the effectiveness of the Compact;

hosting the Annual Compact Awards, recognising excellence in Compact working and promoting best practice;

liaising with officials across central Government Departments on Compact related business, for example, recently OCS worked with No. 10 and departmental business plan leads on the inclusion of the Compact as a cross departmental agenda item in the 2012-13 business plan refresh. Business plans will be published in the spring.

JUSTICE

Trafficking Victim Support Scheme

8. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the Trafficking Victim Support Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [92480]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. and learned Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has received no recent representations on the Trafficking Victim Support Scheme. Victim care remains fundamental to the Government's comprehensive approach to combating human trafficking.

National Offender Management Service

20. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that the National Offender Management Service is accountable for the decisions it takes on offenders. [92492]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: NOMS is an agency of the Ministry of Justice and has responsibility on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice for commissioning prison and probation services in England and Wales and directly managing offender management services including public sector prisons.

A framework document sets out the arrangements for the governance, accountability, financing, staffing and operation of the agency and is agreed between the Secretary of State and its chief executive. The framework document is approved by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Domestic Violence Victim Support

21. **Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to support victims of domestic violence in the criminal justice system. [92493]

Mr Djanogly: Since 2007-08 we have contributed just over £9 million towards the funding of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service to address the safety needs of victims.

We are also providing nearly £4.7 million over the next three years through our Victim and Witness General Fund to fund 44 court-based independent domestic violence advisor (IDVA) positions.

Community Sentences

22. **Mel Stride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase the effectiveness of community sentences. [92494]

Nick Herbert: We are taking action to strengthen community sentences including making Community Payback more immediate and intensive and through measures in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

We have identified that we need to go further still and will be consulting on reforms to ensure that community sentences effectively punish and rehabilitate offenders.

Bill of Rights

23. **Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the Commission on a Bill of Rights to conclude its work and publish its final report. [92495]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Under the Commission's terms of reference, the Commission will report back to the Deputy Prime Minister and me by the end of 2012.

Bribery Act 2010

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress he has made towards implementing the Bribery Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [92629]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Bribery Act 2010 was commenced on 1 July 2011 following extensive consultation on, and the publication in March 2011 of, guidance on the Act and bribery prevention procedures for businesses—to be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/making-and-reviewing-the-law/bribery.htm

Prosecution guidance was also published jointly by the Director of the Serious Fraud Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions—to be found at:

http://www.sfo.gov.uk/bribery--corruption/bribery-act---useful-links.aspx

The first prosecution and conviction under the Act was in November 2011. Since July 2011 a number of Government Departments and agencies including the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, United Kingdom Trade and Investment, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Attorney-General's Office, the Serious Fraud Office and the Crown Prosecution Service have continued to promote the effective implementation of the Act through internal awareness raising and training and various outreach initiatives. This work focuses in particular on engagement with the business community on the proportionate application of anti-bribery measures and the provision of information and assistance for UK businesses operating in or seeking to enter foreign markets—see for example:

http://www.business-anti-corruption.com/?L=0

and

http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/howwehelp/overseasbusinessrisk.html

In my capacity as the Government's International Anti-Corruption Champion I also raise the profile of the UK's significant contribution to the international anti-bribery consensus. I briefed the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Anti-Corruption in November 2011 and I will address delegates at the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group in February in London, which the UK is co-chairing with Mexico. This broad range of initiatives will ensure that the UK continues to be at the forefront of the promotion of ethical business standards and will support export led growth through helping to establish a level playing field for UK business in international commerce.

Community Orders

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were sent to prison after breaching a community sentence in each year since 2000. [91840]

Mr Blunt: The table shows the number of men and women received into prison for breach of a court order in each year from 2000 to 2009 (the most recent figures available). These figures include those imprisoned for breach of a Community Order, and the range of community sentences that it replaced, and of a Suspended Sentence Order.

The number of breach receptions grew considerably after 2003, reflecting better enforcement and, from 2005, the effect of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which introduced the Community Order and Suspended Sentence Order.

	Male	*Female*
2000	2,334	248
2001	2,555	311
2002	3,367	461
2003	4,736	693
2004	6,335	937
2005	7,084	958
2006	8,601	1,093
2007	11,129	1,303
2008	12,613	1,447
2009	10,418	1,052

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Criminal Proceedings: Costs

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost was of a case heard in a *(a)* Magistrates' court and *(b)* Crown court in each year between 1997 and 2011. [91550]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service, HMCTS, has no court cost statistics prior to the creation of Her Majesty's Court Service on 1 April 2005. Since 2007-08 magistrates courts proceedings data recorded by HMCTS are not directly comparable with the data previously recorded by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform. As a result it is not possible to provide comparable average magistrates courts costs per case for 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The average costs have been derived by dividing the direct costs incurred by the courts in a financial year by the number of hearings reported by the HMCTS performance database for the financial year in the case of magistrates courts and the numbers of disposals and orders made in the financial year in the case of the Crown court.

The average costs of hearings in magistrates courts and disposals and orders made in Crown courts are as follows:

£

	Crown court	Magistrates courts
2005-06	1,639	n/a
2006-07	1,594	n/a
2007-08	1,519	154
2008-09	1,492	169
2009-10	1,488	174
2010-11	1,441	168

The costs relate to judicial remuneration allocated to the Crown courts and administration and court costs incurred directly by the courts, excluding overheads and depreciation.

EU Regulations: Civil Jurisdiction

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has made to the European Commission on the extension to third state nationals of European regulations on civil jurisdiction. [91801]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have made no formal representations to the European Commission on this issue. However, I have made clear in discussions that the Government are not aware of any problems caused by the existing national rules on jurisdiction in such cases. I am aware that our view is shared by the Governments of several other member states.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92116]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice publishes responses to requests received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, where information has been disclosed under the Act. Responses are published on a disclosure log on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/global/foi-requests/latest-moj-disclosure-log.htm

The Ministry of Justice does not record the average time taken to publish responses: the disclosure log is regularly updated with new content, usually on a monthly basis. Improvements are currently being made to the existing format of the disclosure log: from February of this year the content will be categorised by subject matter, making it more accessible.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to other Government departments on how and when to publish responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [92169]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has issued guidance encouraging departments to publish information released in response to Freedom of Information requests through up to date online disclosure logs. There is no recommended format or time limit for publishing information on a disclosure log.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has given consideration to requiring Government *(a)* departments and *(b)* agencies to publish their responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in a standardised and searchable format; and whether (i) he or (ii) the Public Sector Transparency Board has given consideration to publishing such responses centrally on the data.gov.uk website. [92436]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice encourages departments and agencies to publish information released in response to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests through the maintenance of up to date online disclosure logs. We support the Information Commissioner's recommendation that disclosure logs should be made readily available. The Government are not currently considering requiring departments and agencies to publish the responses to FOI requests in a particular format or at a particular location.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 24 November 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms C McCall. [90269]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: There was no record of this letter having been received. However, my office has now obtained a copy and the right hon. Member's letter has been transferred to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as the responsible Department for the subject matter, for answer.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to the letter of *(a)* 26 October 2011 and *(b)* 28 November 2011 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay on the Traveller site at Dale Farm. [92261]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have now replied.

Offenders: Mental Illness

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 667-8W, on offenders: mental illness, if he will provide a breakdown of those crimes committed in each of the last three years. [92893]

Mr Blunt: 90 restricted patients were reconvicted within two years of being discharged for the first time by the Mental Health Review Tribunal or with the consent of the Secretary of State between 1999 and 2007. The table gives details of their reconvictions.

These figures are the latest available and are derived from the dataset used to produce paper 3.1 in the Compendium of Reoffending Statistics and Analysis, published on 4 November 2010.

Offence details for offenders released in each year have been combined because in any single year the number of patients discharged for the first time and who went on to be reconvicted is small. Caution should be exercised when interpreting the reconviction figures provided, which represent only those patients first discharged and matched on the police national computer and therefore do not capture all patients discharged into the community in a given year or take into account recalls.

Reconvictions by restricted patients[1] discharged for the first time by the Mental Health Review Tribunal or with the consent of the Secretary of State between 1999 and 2007

Offence	*Number of offences*
Violence	13
Of which:	
Manslaughter	1
Attempted murder	1
GBH	3
ABH	3
Racially aggravated common assault	1
Possessing firearm or imitation firearm	1
Possession of offensive weapon	2
Having an article with a blade or point	1
Sexual	3
Of which:	
Rape of a female aged 16 or over	1
Attempted rape of a female aged 16 or over	1
Failure to notify police of home address under Sex Offenders Act 1997	1
Burglary	23
Robbery	12
Theft and handling stolen goods	25
Of which:	
Shoplifting	12
Stealing from motor vehicles	1
Stealing from the person of another	2
Stealing in a dwelling other than from automatic machines and meters	1
Stealing not classified elsewhere	4
Theft of motor vehicle	1
Receiving stolen goods	4
Fraud and forgery	4
Criminal damage	5
Drug offences	21
Of which:	
Possession with intent to supply class A drug	2
Possession of class A drug	6
Possession of cannabis	11
Possession of other class B drug	2
Indictable motoring offences	1
Other indictable offences	10
Summary offences excluding motoring	53
Summary motoring offences	31
Offences outside England and Wales	1
Breach offences	5
Total	207

[1] 90 restricted patients reconvicted within two years of being discharged.

These figures are published quarterly in the Offender Management Statistics quarterly brief, available on the Ministry of Justice website.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Death

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government plans to take to reduce the number of deaths in prisons. [91453]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service is committed to reducing the numbers of deaths in custody. Each death is subject to an investigation and, since 2004, these have been undertaken by the prisons and probation ombudsman. Strenuous efforts are made to learn from each death and improve our understanding and procedures for caring for prisoners.

A new national Prison Service instruction is due to be issued imminently which brings together the three existing safer custody policies (covering suicide prevention and self harm management, violence reduction and follow up to deaths in custody) into one single overarching policy. The revised policy builds on several years of learning from the experience of prisoners, staff, investigators, inspectors and others.

A three-tier Ministerial Council on Deaths in Custody was set up in July 2008. The three tiers comprise a Ministerial Board, an Independent Advisory Panel (IAP) and a practitioner and stakeholder group, which supports the work of the IAP. The shared purpose of the board and the panel is to bring about a continued and sustained reduction in the number and rate of deaths in all forms of state custody in England and Wales by actively enabling cross-Government learning.

Prisons: Private Sector

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of changes to the budget of each privately-run prison in each of the next five years. [92515]

Mr Blunt: Payments to the 12 prisons run by private-sector companies under contract to the Ministry of Justice are subject to a number of variables, including the number of prisoners held during the course of the year. It is not possible to forecast the effect of those factors over a five-year period.

Spending review 2010 agreed MOJ's budget up to 2014-15, however, detailed allocations are done on an annual basis. NOMS are in the process of allocating 2012-13 budgets to individual prisons and will agree this before the start of the financial year. The privately run prisons are all subject to commercial contracts and any changes are subject to these contracts.

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was ordered to be confiscated under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each year since its enactment; and what proportion was collected in each of those years. [91967]

Prisoners' Release

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women given an indeterminate sentence for public protection were released in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [92561]

Mr Blunt: In 2010, 89 men and eight women serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) were released from prison establishments in England and Wales. Annual figures for 2011 are not yet available, however between 1 January and 30 September 2011, 187 men and eight women serving an IPP were released from prison establishments in England and Wales.

Mr Blunt: Data for confiscation orders are only held from April 2005 and the results are in the following table.

The table records the value of confiscation orders granted between 2005-06 and 2010-11, the amount remaining to collect and the amount recovered. A percentage figure records the amount collected against the confiscation orders imposed, during each financial year.

	POCA confiscation orders granted (£)	*POCA confiscation order balance outstanding (£)*	*POCA confiscation orders collected (£)*	*Percentage collected of the confiscation order granted*
2005-06	36,457,284	6,698,257	29,759,027	82
2006-07	64,614,075	17,173,264	47,440,811	73
2007-08	134,980,670	70,761,955	64,218,715	48
2008-09	132,708,218	63,520,784	69,187,434	52
2009-10	126,258,634	60,273,951	65,984,683	52
2010-11	194,028,523	116,881,709	77,146,814	40
Total	689,047,404	335,309,920	353,737,484	51

The above figures were taken from the Joint Asset Recovery Database (JARD) on 25 January 2012.

Public Sector: Procurement

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had on the inclusion of private sector companies in receipt of public sector contracts within the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [92155]

Mr Djanogly: We have considered the extension of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act to private companies in receipt of public sector contracts. We do not propose to extend the FOI Act to such companies at present, having struck a balance between our commitment to increasing transparency and that of reducing the regulatory burden on business.

However, we consider that there is a strong argument for increased transparency for all bodies in receipt of public funds. The Government's "Open Data Consultation" sought views on the types of organisations to which an Open Data policy would apply. A summary of the responses has been published at:

www.data.gov.uk

The FOI Act is also subject to post-legislative scrutiny to see how it is working in practice. Further policy in this area will be developed in light of the evidence drawn from both sets of work.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92281]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Compact sets out the relationship between the Government and civil society organisations, also known as the voluntary community and social enterprise sector. This is part of the framework of policies which support the big society.

The Ministry of Justice is signed up to the Compact, as are other Government Departments. Policies within the Department seek to be compliant with the principles of the Compact. This includes, for example, the procurement policies used by the Department.

Following the publication of the National Audit Office report on implementation of the Compact in Departments, the Ministry of Justice is considering what more could be done to improve the relationship with civil society organisations, and will reflect this in its updated business plan in the spring. The Department will also support action taken centrally by the Office for Civil Society to further embed the Compact.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff were employed by the Tribunals Service to deal with appeals against the work capability assessment in each month in 2011. [92428]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) hears appeals against Department for Work and Pensions decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) (decisions in which the work capability assessment is a key factor) rather than appeals against work capability assessment decisions themselves.

It is not possible to identify how many staff deal specifically with ESA appeals. The table shows the number of staff employed in relation to the social security and child support (SSCS) tribunal (the lowest level to which the figures can be broken down) as at the end of each month between January 2011 and November 2011 (the latest period for which published figures are available). The Tribunal hears appeals on a range of benefits, of which ESA is one.

Of the 1,014 staff in post as at 30 November 2011, 814 were permanent staff and 200 staff were on fixed term contracts. HMCTS disposed of 35,400 SSCS appeals in October 2011 (the latest date for which published information is available), up 1,700 from 33,700 in January 2011.

Social security and child support tribunal staff numbers January 2011 to November 2011

	Number of staff[1]
January 2011	958
February 2011	958
March 2011	984
April 2011	1,013
May 2011	1,029
June 2011	1,030
July 2011	1,045
August 2011	1,061
September 2011	1,074
October 2011	1,019
November 2011	1,014

[1] These data are taken from management information. The figures quoted refer to the total number of people employed and includes those who work part-time or on a full-time basis and on temporary or fixed-term contacts. Some of the staff included may work in multi-jurisdictional centres dealing with other work as well as social security and child support appeals.

Youth Custody: Standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to apply national minimum standards and regulations for children's homes to *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* secure training centres. [92369]

Mr Blunt: Young people placed in custody have a wide range of needs and these are met through the different accommodation and regimes provided in secure children's homes, secure training centres (STCs) and under-18 young offenders institutions (YOIs). Therefore the relevant standards and regulations for children's homes (which apply to both non-secure and secure children's homes) are not directly applicable to under-18 YOIs or STCs. There are no plans to apply children's homes regulations to other sectors. The regulatory framework of all three sectors is designed to ensure the safety and well-being of young people in custody.

EDUCATION

Academies: Admissions

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in what circumstances he would agree a variation from the School Admissions Codes in respect of admission arrangements for an academy; who he is required to consult on any such variation; in accordance with which legislation such variation from the Codes becomes part of the academy's funding agreement; and in respect of which academies such variations have already been agreed. [92189]

Mr Gibb: All academies are required by their funding agreements to comply with admissions legislation and the School Admissions Codes. The Secretary of State can agree different arrangements in individual academies and free schools but we do not expect to have many requests for him to do so. He would only agree to such requests in exceptional and limited circumstances, where it is clear that the change would benefit local children and the community.

He has, for example, agreed that because of the accelerated timescale for the opening of UTCs, studio schools and free schools, there is no requirement for these schools to be within the local process for co-ordinating admissions in the first year of establishment. For future years they must be within local authority co-ordination.

The Secretary of State is not required to consult about these requests; that duty lies with the academy or free school itself. He would, of course, take such consultation into account before reaching a decision.

The previous Administration agreed variations from Code for the following academies when establishing them:

Priory LSST academy in Lincolnshire;

Birmingham Ormiston 'BRIT' academy; and

Belvedere academy, Liverpool.

To date, this Government have agreed a variation for:

Canary Wharf free school

Academies: Primary Education

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish the evidence setting out the effects on attainment of converting primary schools into academies; and if he will make a statement. [90355]

Mr Gibb: There is growing international evidence on the benefits of autonomy in schools, particularly in the areas of curriculum, staffing and finance. It is this autonomy that the academies programme enables and which promotes improvements in standards.

There is also strong evidence (including from London School of Economics, 2011, Public Accounts Committee, 2011, National Audit Office, 2010, and PricewaterhouseCoopers, 2008) of the benefits, in terms of raised standards, of secondary schools becoming academies. There is no reason why this intervention should not work as well if not better in primary schools as it does in secondary schools.

We are committed to report to Parliament on the progress of all academies in the programme, including primary academies, in March 2012.

Adoption

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children under the age of one were adopted in each year from 1997 to 2011. [91798]

Tim Loughton: The numbers of looked after children aged under one who were adopted in each year from 1997 to 2011 are shown in the following table.

Looked after children who were adopted during the years ending 31 March aged under one year at adoption[1, 2], years ending 31 March 1997 to 2011, England

	Number of children
1997	140
1998	150
1999	190
2000	190
2001	200
2002	200
2003	220
2004	220
2005	210
2006	200
2007	150
2008	110
2009	80
2010	70
2011	60

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

Source:

SSDA 903

This information for years 2007 to 2011 is also contained in table E1 of the Statistical First Release (Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2011) which was published on 28 September 2011 at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/allstatistics/a00196857/children-looked-after-by-las-in-england

Children: Mental Health Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many child *(a)* psychologists and *(b)* psychiatrists completed training in each of the last five years. [92585]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department of Health.

The numbers of child psychologists and psychiatrists who completed training is not held centrally.

Children: Retail Trade

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to implement the recommendation of the Bailey Review to develop a code of good practice on retailing to children. [92318]

Sarah Teather: As with most of the recommendations that Reg Bailey made in his review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood, the recommendation to develop a code of good practice on retailing to children is directed to businesses and not to Government.

The British Retail Consortium (BRC) and a number of its member companies developed voluntary guidelines on good practice in retailing children's clothes, which were launched on 6 June 2011. Companies supplying more than half the market in children's clothing are now signatories to the guidelines. The BRC will be reviewing the guidelines this spring to take account of any feedback received from parents and customers.

We will continue to monitor progress on this and other recommendations in the Bailey Review, and there will be a full stock-take of progress by the end of the year. At that point we will consider what further measures may need to be taken to achieve the recommended outcomes, including considering statutory regulation if voluntary action has not been effective.

Children: Searches

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to bring forward proposals to require a witness to be present when a child is searched. [92359]

Mr Gibb: Head teachers and school staff currently have a statutory power to search a pupil without consent (or his/her possessions) if they reasonably suspect he/she is carrying a knife or other weapon, alcohol, controlled drugs and stolen items ('prohibited items'). The person conducting the search must be the same sex as the pupil being searched and the search must be witnessed by a member of staff also the same sex as the pupil where practicable.

Provisions in section 2 of the Education Act 2011 will permit teachers to search without consent pupils of the opposite sex and will also remove the requirement that the search of the pupil (or his/her possessions) is witnessed by another member of staff. These provisions will only apply where two important tests are satisfied. The first test is that the person carrying out the search must reasonably believe that there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not carried out as a matter of urgency. The second test is that in the time available it is not reasonably practicable for the search to be carried out by a person of the same sex as the pupil, or in the presence of another member of staff.

The Government propose to bring the new searching provisions into force from 1 April 2012.

The powers to search without consent as described above and the provisions included in the Education Act 2011 apply to schools in England only. It is of course for the Members of the Welsh Assembly Government to consider whether they wish that these provisions should apply to schools in Wales.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [86997]

Tim Loughton: The Department spend on food and beverages for official meetings during the financial year 2011/12 is not yet available.

The Department spent £349,725.07 on food and beverages for official meetings during the financial year 2009/10 and £199,347.67 in 2010/11.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89686]

Tim Loughton: The Department was created in May 2010. We use a non-consolidated (not pensionable) amount of our pay bill (under 1.5%) each year to reward exceptional performance. The following table shows the amounts paid with respect to non-consolidated performance related pay in each of the last two full financial years for the current Department and its predecessor, the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

	2009/10		*2010/11*	
	£ million	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*
Non consolidated performance related pay	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.48

Individual performance related pay awards range from between £1,200 for administrative grades to £10,000 for senior management grades. These sums generally amount to less than 6% of salaries for staff below Grade 7, 4% for Grades 7 and 6, and 10 for the Senior Civil Service. The top 20 of these awards, which also form the top 20 highest allowances paid over each of the last two years, were £10,000 to £15,000 for 2009/10; and £8,000 to £10,000 for 2010/11.

The Department pays a range of allowances to staff to enable delivery of departmental business and to recognise and retain specific skills. The Department spent £300,000 in each of the last two financial years (2009/10 and 2010/11) on these allowances. This includes payments to acknowledge staff who undertake temporary periods of additional duties and payments to enable recruitment for posts which are hard to fill, or require particular specialisms.

The following table shows the Department's policy on each allowance:

	Policy
Temporary Duties Allowance	10% or the difference between salary and the pay band minima of the higher band.
Supervisory Allowance	10% of basic pay when additional duties or responsibilities are given within the substantive grade.
Recruitment or Retention addition	EO and below up to £2,000 SEO and below up to £3,000 G6 and below up to £5,000

The Department makes a number of non cash payments to eligible staff, in the form of child care vouchers. These can be used by staff to pay for registered and approved child care and the value varies depending on the age of the child and location and ranges between £39 to £200 for staff out of London; £45 to £230 for London staff; and £90 to £460 for staff with children with special needs. The amount spent on these vouchers was £600,000 for 2009/10 and £460,000 for 2010/11.

Information on the public servants employed in the Department's NDPBs is a matter for them and is not held centrally.

Departmental Travel Costs

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92836]

Tim Loughton: The information is as follows:

(a) Private Hire Vehicles

The department entered into a framework agreement with Enterprise Rent-A-Car UK Ltd on 6 December 2010 in collaboration with Department for Works and Pensions and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

(b) Taxi companies

The department entered into a call-off agreement with Addison Lee from 23 August 2010 for taxi services in London. The call-off is under the terms and conditions of the DWP Collaborative Taxi Sourcing, Booking, Delivery and Management Framework.

Work Experience

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what work experience or traineeship schemes his Department offers to minority groups. [92756]

Tim Loughton: The Department takes part each year in the Cabinet Office Civil Service Summer Diversity Internship Programme for graduates from an ethnic minority or under-represented socio-economic background. Interns receive a weekly training allowance of £350 for those based in London or £300 outside of London.

Work experience placements are offered over the summer (May to August) to mainly school-aged (year 10 and 11) children and some undergraduates. These are unpaid placements. Placements are not restricted to minority groups.

In addition this year the Department will be offering a number of internships to minority groups through the cross-Civil Service Whitehall Internship Programmes, as outlined in the Government's Social Mobility Strategy published in April 2011.

Education: Assessments

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of schools using more than one examination board or awarding body for GCSEs; and what assessment he has made of how this has changed over time. [92134]

Mr Gibb: The Department has made no such estimate or assessment.

Extracurricular Activities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure all children have access to extended school provision. [92355]

Sarah Teather: Funding for extended services is included in the Dedicated Schools Grant, but it is for schools to decide what services they will offer based on the needs of their pupils.

As part of their wider strategies to raise standards for the most disadvantaged pupils, schools may also wish to consider using some of their Pupil Premium funding on extended services.

The Department has awarded grants to Children's University and ContinYou, over two years, 2011-13, to support the development of extra curricular and learning opportunities either side of the school day.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children had access to one or more cultural school trips in the last year for which figures are available. [92357]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

The Government recognise the contribution that cultural school trips can make to engaging and supporting pupils' education. We believe that schools are in the best position to decide how this can best meet the needs of their pupils. This is not something on which we would want to ask schools to report centrally.

Free Schools

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps can be taken by local organisations and schools when an application to set up or become a free school or academy is opposed by a local authority. [91941]

Mr Gibb: For all free schools or schools becoming academies there is a statutory requirement to carry out a consultation. Local organisations and schools should contribute their views to this consultation, and are also free to write to Ministers or the Department for Education to express such views. All views, both positive and negative, will be taken into account before a funding agreement is signed.

Social and Emotional Learning

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of Roots of Empathy classroom practices as a means of promoting social and emotional learning. [92310]

Mr Gibb: The Department has no plans to make such an assessment

As we said in the Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" there needs to be room in the life of the school for an exploration of wider social issues which contribute to the well-being and engagement of all students. It should be for teachers, not government, to design the lessons and the experiences which will engage students.

The Department's evidence-gathering phase of its review of personal, social, health and economics education closed on 30 November 2011. We are now analysing the contributions received, including national and international evidence, examples of best practice, and evidence based interventions that are proven to achieve the outcomes we want. The Department plans to consult on its proposals for the future of PSHE education later this year.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to reform the personal, social, health and economic curriculum to teach pupils about children from different cultural backgrounds. [92356]

Mr Gibb: The non-statutory programmes of study for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education include teaching about the diversity of ethnic and cultural groups. Pupils are taught to respect and appreciate the similarities as well as differences between people of different races, cultures and religions.

The Department is currently reviewing PSHE education to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching and support teachers to teach the subject well. We are considering submissions of evidence and good practice received as part of the review process. We will publish our proposals for public consultation later this year.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to encourage positive relationship education, including awareness of domestic violence and sexual exploitation. [92358]

Mr Gibb: Children and young people are taught about making positive relationships within the non-statutory subject of personal, social, health and economics (PSHE) education.

The current PSHE programmes of study include teaching about having respect for others and understanding the nature and consequences of teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviour. Schools must also have regard to the Secretary of State's statutory 'Sex and Relationships Education Guidance' which recommends that children should be taught about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and for bringing up children. This includes learning about stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.

The Department is currently reviewing PSHE education to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE. The review will look at how the guidance on sex and relationship education can be simplified to strengthen the priority given to teaching about relationships and sexual consent. Encouraging teaching about sexual consent is part of the Government's action plan to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Primary Education: Literacy

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what support his Department is giving to primary schools to develop pupils' literacy skills in years two to six. [92399]

Mr Gibb: We are determined to raise standards of literacy in schools in order to equip all children with the basic skills they need to succeed. We are promoting the teaching of reading through systematic synthetic phonics, in line with strong evidence on its particular benefits for children aged 5-7. This includes making match-funding of up to £3,000 available to all state-funded schools with key stage one pupils (up to year two), so that they can purchase approved systematic synthetic phonics products and training; introducing a phonics screening check for pupils at the end of year one; and improving initial teacher training in systematic synthetic phonics.

The investment in reading in key stage one will have a positive impact on literacy skills in later years. In addition, our other reforms, including to Key Stage 2 assessment, and the future changes to the national curriculum, will all support improvements to literacy standards in primary schools.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools have received support from the pupil premium for armed services' children in each local authority area; and what the overall cost of this policy has been. [91520]

Sarah Teather: The pupil premium was introduced in April 2011 and allocations have so far been made for the 2011-12 financial year only. Pupil premium funding is provided in respect of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals, children in care who have been continuously looked after for at least six months and children whose parents are serving in the armed forces, known as service children.

In England there were 5,170 schools with pupils on the January 2011 school census recorded as service children who qualified for the service premium.

The total cost of this element of the premium for 2011-12 is £9,013,948, with schools receiving £200 in respect of each service child. This will increase to £250 in respect of each service child in 2012-13. The following table provides a breakdown of the number of schools in receipt of the service premium by local authority.

State-funded primary, secondary and special schools: Number of schools with pupils eligible for the service child premium in 2011-12 by local authority area in England

Local authority	*Number of schools with pupils eligible for the service child premium*[1]
England	5,170
City of London	0
Camden	2
Greenwich	21
Hackney	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	2
Islington	1
Kensington and Chelsea	6
Lambeth	2
Lewisham	2
Southwark	1
Tower Hamlets	3
Wandsworth	6
Westminster	7
Barking and Dagenham	2
Barnet	10
Bexley	8
Brent	1
Bromley	3
Croydon	6
Ealing	0
Enfield	5
Haringey	2
Harrow	5
Havering	5
Hillingdon	38
Hounslow	3
Kingston upon Thames	11
Merton	6
Newham	1
Redbridge	3
Richmond upon Thames	10
Sutton	1
Waltham Forest	1
Birmingham	30
Coventry	4
Dudley	10
Sandwell	4
Solihull	10
Walsall	7
Wolverhampton	4
Knowsley	5
Liverpool	33
St Helens	16
Sefton	34
Wirral	33
Bolton	13
Bury	6
Manchester	11
Oldham	9
Rochdale	12
Salford	6
Stockport	17
Tameside	6
Trafford	1
Wigan	24
Barnsley	38
Doncaster	27
Rotherham	19
Sheffield	16
Bradford	9
Calderdale	17
Kirklees	40
Leeds	33
Wakefield	32
Gateshead	9
Newcastle upon Tyne	18
North Tyneside	39
South Tyneside	12
Sunderland	23
Bath and North East Somerset	27
Bristol, City of	11
North Somerset	28
South Gloucestershire	34
Hartlepool	9
Middlesbrough	19
Redcar and Cleveland	25
Stockton-on-Tees	35
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	16
East Riding of Yorkshire	37
North East Lincolnshire	15
North Lincolnshire	20
North Yorkshire	149
York	35
Luton	2
Bedford	8
Central Bedfordshire	33
Buckinghamshire	89
Milton Keynes	10
Derbyshire	94
Derby	6
Dorset	102
Poole	29
Bournemouth	13
Durham	70
Darlington	26
East Sussex	14
Brighton and Hove	0
Hampshire	351
Portsmouth	51
Southampton	16
Leicestershire	46
Leicester	5
Rutland	20
Staffordshire	92
Stoke-on-Trent	9
Wiltshire	195
Swindon	32
Bracknell Forest	13
Windsor and Maidenhead	21
West Berkshire	26
Reading	3
Slough	1
Wokingham	20
Cambridgeshire	98
Peterborough	35
Halton	4
Warrington	12
Devon	161
Plymouth	80
Torbay	21
Essex	80
Southend-on-Sea	5

State-funded primary, secondary and special schools: Number of schools with pupils eligible for the service child premium in 2011-12 by local authority area in England

Local authority	*Number of schools with pupils eligible for the service child premium*[1]
Thurrock	0
Herefordshire	45
Worcestershire	32
Kent	112
Medway	40
Lancashire	94
Blackburn with Darwen	7
Blackpool	11
Nottinghamshire	110
Nottingham	9
Shropshire	47
Telford and Wrekin	46
Cheshire East	17
Cheshire West and Chester	35
Cornwall	157
Cumbria	22
Gloucestershire	97
Hertfordshire	49
Isle of Wight	15
Lincolnshire	231
Norfolk	132
Northamptonshire	30
Northumberland	65
Oxfordshire	129
Somerset	149
Suffolk	141
Surrey	83
Warwickshire	51
West Sussex	60

[1] Number of State-Funded Primary, State-Funded Secondary and Maintained Special Schools (including Academies and CTCs) with pupils recorded on roll as Service Children on the January 2011 School Census in year groups R-11 (where National Curriculum year groups do not apply pupils aged 4 to 15). For all those aged 5 and over includes sole or dual main registrations only.

Source:
School Census

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that local authorities receive an amount of local authority central spend equivalent grant to enable per pupil funding for schools which they maintain to be comparable to that in academy schools in their area. [84007]

Mr Gibb: The aim of the Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG) is to replicate for academies the expenditure being spent by their local authority on functions which become the responsibility of the academy on conversion. It follows that equivalent funding remains with local authorities to support the maintained schools in their areas. We have announced our intention to move to a nationally-based per pupil rate for LACSEG from 2013-14. This will ensure that local authorities and academies receive an equal per pupil amount for the services which they are responsible for providing. We will be consulting on the detail of these proposals later in 2012.

Schools: Budgeting

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to introduce a student council in all schools with council members able to participate in budgeting. [92360]

Mr Gibb: Most schools promote pupil participation through a school council. The Government believe that schools should consider the views of pupils but that they should determine the most effective way to do this.

The Government also believe that it is important for pupils to understand important financial principles, such as budgeting. Many schools provide financial education as part of Personal, Social, Health and Economics education, although many may want to give their pupils practical experience of budgeting through their role on the school council.

Responsibility for the school budget of the school itself rests with the governing body, and students under 18 cannot be governors as they cannot take legal responsibility and therefore enter into financial commitments. Governing bodies are free to invite pupils to attend governing body meetings and to participate as associate members of the governing body. Those over 18 can speak and vote but they cannot vote on the budget and financial commitments of the governing body of their school.

Schools: Inspections

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what role the English baccalaureate criteria will play in Ofsted inspections. [91614]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw, has written to my hon. Friend, and a copy of his response has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Sir Michael Wilshaw, dated 26 January 2012:

Your recent Parliamentary Question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Under the new framework for school inspections introduced in January 2012, inspectors make a judgement on: pupils' achievement; the quality of teaching; behaviour and safety of pupils, and the leadership and management of the school. These judgements are then taken into account, along with the school's promotion of the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, as inspectors make their judgement on the school's overall effectiveness.

In judging pupils' achievement in secondary schools, inspectors take account of both pupils' past attainment and progress, and the quality of learning and progress seen in the school on inspection. In considering past performance, inspectors evaluate previous years' results in GCSE and equivalent examinations compared to figures and indices which show the pupils' progress against progress measures which are benchmarked nationally.

Pupils' attainment in the English baccalaureate is not one of the key measures that inspectors currently consider as a matter of course when assessing pupils' achievement under the new inspection framework. The English baccalaureate is not a statutory requirement for schools. Many schools currently do not enter all pupils for the requisite subjects so that performance in the English baccalaureate is more a reflection of individual schools' curriculum policies rather than a measure of pupils' attainment. However, if the school identifies performance in the English baccalaureate as an important part of its work, inspectors will take this into account in their evaluation of pupils' achievement.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses,

Schools: Sport

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to improve the provision of sport in schools in *(a)* Medway and *(b)* Kent. [92758]

Tim Loughton: Physical education (PE) is a compulsory subject in the national curriculum in England and will continue to be so. In its last report on PE (2008) Ofsted found an improving trend in standards, achievement, provision and leadership; with the quality of teaching being good or outstanding in two thirds of schools visited. Our education reforms will free up all schools to decide how best to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, including the provision of sport in schools.

The Government want to increase the amount of competitive sport in schools, and are making available £65 million for this purpose. This funding will cover the school years 2011/12 and 2012/13 and will pay for one day a week of a secondary PE teacher's time to be spent out of the classroom, encouraging greater take-up of competitive sport in local primary schools, and securing a fixture network for schools to increase the amount of intra- and inter- school sporting competition. In *(a)* Medway 22 secondary schools and in *(b)* Kent 146 secondary schools are eligible for the funding, and allocations of £7,600 per school have been made for the 2011/12 academic year.

In addition the Government are creating more opportunities for competitive sport within and between schools, and at county, district and national levels through the School Games. This new sport competition, which is open to all schools, uses the inspiration of London's Olympics and culminates in National Finals in May 2012, some of which will take place in the Olympic Park.

Secondary Education: Gifted Children

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 12W, on secondary education: gifted children, what statistics his Department maintains on the number and proportion of schools who identify pupils for the Gifted and Talented programme. [92382]

Mr Gibb: The Gifted and Talented (G and T) programme ended on 31 March 2010. The Department no longer maintains data on the programme.

The G and T 'flag' which formed part of the annual school census from 2007 has been removed from the January 2012 census. There was no requirement for schools to use this 'flag' and it was for schools to decide what—if any—additional or more tailored support was appropriate for their G and T pupils.

The last data that we hold are from the January 2011 school census. This shows that the number and proportion of schools which identified at least one G and T pupil was:

15,045 (89.1%) for state-funded primary schools

3,243 (98.0%) for state-funded secondary schools

Although this particular 'flag' has been removed from the census, we are publishing much more data than ever before about the progress of high attaining pupils. The information in the recently published performance tables shows, for the first time, the progression of groups of pupils with different levels of attainment, so parents and others can see how children of different abilities are catered for.

Teachers: Pay

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average salary was of a teacher in *(a)* England, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Dartford in the last year for which figures are available. [92143]

Mr Gibb: The following table provides the average salary for full-time qualified teachers in service in publicly funded schools in England, Kent local authority and Dartford parliamentary constituency in November 2010, the latest information available.

Average salary of full-time qualified teachers[1] in service in publicly funded schools. Year: November 2010. Coverage: England, Kent local authority and Dartford constituency

	Average salary (£)
England	37,990
Kent	37,100
Dartford	37,960

[1] Includes full time qualified leadership and classroom grades.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

Source:

School Workforce Census

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92290]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education signed up to the renewed Compact published in December 2010, and recognises both the benefits and the importance of the Compact to its relationship with the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Over the last year, the Department for Education has taken a number of actions to ensure the Compact is being implemented, including:

Monitoring consultation lengths to ensure consultations with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) are 12 weeks where possible;

Incorporating the Compact into its internal guidance on matters such as the Making Policy Framework, and its Compact compliant guidance for staff to consider when entering into a grant funded relationship with the VCSE sector;

Monitoring departmental Compact compliance, via the number of complaints received about the implementation of the Compact;

Participating in the NAO's review of the National Compact implementation;

Respecting and upholding the independence of the VCSE sector to deliver their mission. Including their right to campaign, regardless of any relationship, financial or otherwise, which may exist.

In 2012-13, the Department for Education will also include reporting on the Compact within its business plan to be published in spring 2012.

Work Experience

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure all 15 and 16-year-olds have access to two weeks' work experience each year. [92316]

Mr Gibb: Around 95% of students participate in work experience, amounting to over half a million placements each year for 14 to 16-year-olds. We believe that schools should be free to provide work experience placements that meet the needs of their pupils and their local communities, rather than a centrally-imposed requirement.

Alison Wolf's recent review of vocational education, available online at:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00031-2011

outlined the importance of high quality work experience placements as part of a coherent and well thought out 16-19 study programme. The Government remain committed to providing young people with high quality work experience and we are providing £4.5 million over the next two years for 25 further education colleges to pilot innovative new models for delivering work experience.

We are also working with employers to review regulation and remove barriers that stop employers from offering work experience to young people.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether the Government Equalities Office publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92130]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office became part of the Home Office on 1 April 2011. I refer the hon. Member to my answer in response to parliamentary question 92117 on 30 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 400-01W.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 1 February 2012

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Asia: Overseas Trade

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to adapt British export strategies to the growing importance of *(a)* China and *(b)* other parts of Asia as a trading partner; and if he will make a statement. [92154]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) strategy 'Britain Open for Business' has identified 20 priority high-growth and emerging markets, of which 10 are in Asia (China, India, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam).

UKTI was given £45 million in the 29 November 2011 Autumn Statement, *Official Report,* columns 799-810, part of which will be used to encourage more UK businesses into high growth markets such as those in Asia. UKTI has also established a programme targeting high value opportunities globally. This programme currently includes 23 opportunities in Asia.

In addition, there have been a series of high level ministerial trade visits to the region, and UKTI continues to hold high level discussions with the Chinese and other key Asian trading partners.

With regard to China, UKTI is working closely with the China Britain Business Council (CBBC) to deliver services in China. The CBBC is also playing a key role in the UK, organising business events linked to high level visits and small and medium-sized enterprise outreach activity. In addition, UKTI is organising a China Business Day as part of the overall British Business Embassy programme during the Olympics.

Finally, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills have launched a campaign to encourage more British companies to export to Asia's high growth and emerging markets, under the auspices of the Asia Task Force, which will hold a series of practical events for exporters around the country in early February.

Chemicals: North West

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure a global level playing field for the chemicals industry in the north-west. [93117]

Mr Prisk: The UK chemicals sector is in the top 10 of global chemical producers and the third largest in Europe after Germany and France. The industry is increasingly international and 90% of UK chemicals output is exported; 60% of these exports are to the EU.

The Government is creating the conditions for the chemicals sector to build on this position by encouraging higher levels of innovation, exports, business investment and technical skills as well as cutting excessive red tape. The plan for growth announced as part of Budget 2011, included a package of measures to stimulate growth, including:

Creating the most competitive tax system in the G20

Making the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business

Encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy

Creating a more dedicated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe

In addition to these national actions, we have created Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS) which provide the vision, knowledge and strategic leadership needed to drive sustainable private sector growth and job creation in their area. There are five LEPS covering the north-west. These business public sector partnerships are focussed on supporting local chemical businesses which will encourage investment in the sector.

On a regional level we have also launched the Regional Growth Fund (RGF). The first two rounds of the RGF produced winning applicants from the chemicals sectors in the north-west—link as follows. We have also announced a £1 billion extension of the RGF which will open this month to which applicants from the north-west are welcome.

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/regional-growth-fund/successful-2nd-round-bids

The chemicals sector is included as a priority area in the new UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) five year strategy—"Britain Open for Business". A new trade specialist from business is, in consultation with industry, reviewing international opportunities and UK capability and will produce an action plan for capturing more business.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), and UKTI officials work together on a number of inward investment and export oriented projects that cover the north-west.

The Government also consults closely with the industry to ensure that barriers to trade it encounters are addressed in multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations led by the European Commission as well as through bilateral UK contacts with third countries.

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the value to the economy of the chemical industry in the north-west. [93118]

Mr Prisk: Latest regional financial figures (2009) suggest that the chemicals industry in the north-west generated nearly £7 billion in turnover and contributed around £1.8 billion in value added to the UK economy. Employment data show that in 2010 the north-west chemicals industry had a total employment of 21,000.

Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 332W, on departmental recruitment, how much of the £916,025 spent on recruitment agencies was spent on agency *(a)* fees and *(b)* staff. [92600]

Mr Davey: Not all of the invoices that make up the £916,025 spent on recruitment agencies provide a breakdown between agency fees and staff costs. Therefore an answer to the question can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Higher Education: Electricity

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which universities are contracted to provide electricity on demand to STOR aggregators. [91955]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 26 January 2012]:* This information is not held centrally.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of expenditure on recurrent grant for teaching in higher education paid via the Higher Education Funding Council for England in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* 2011-12 values in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [92946]

Mr Willetts: The annual grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) was published last week. It confirmed an allocation for teaching grant of £4.6 billion in 2011-12, £3.8 billion in 2012-13 and gave an indicative allocation for 2013-14 of £2.9 billion. The Government estimates that by 2014-15 funding to HE institutions from teaching grant will be around £2 billion. The funding beyond 2015 is subject to the next spending review. In 2011-12 values these figures in each year of the spending review are £4.6 billion, £3.7 billion, £2.8 billion and £1.9 billion respectively, and they represent a significant contribution to tackling the deficit. However, as a consequence of the funding reforms the Government have implemented, we expect this to be more than offset by the additional income that HE institutions will receive through Government-backed tuition fee loans.

Manufacturing Industries: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to support the manufacturing industry in the West Midlands. [92556]

Mr Prisk: The Government have been supporting manufacturing in the West Midlands through programmes such as the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) and for exceptional projects through the Grant for Business Investment (GBI) scheme. Funding has been provided to a number of firms undertaking major investments in the region in research and development and/or new equipment and facilities. Among the businesses which have received support are Jaguar Land Rover, Ceram and Zytek. A £1 billion increase in the Regional Growth Fund was announced as part of the Autumn Statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810. The Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative, announced in December 2011, will support investment in training to improve skills as well as expenditure on research and development and capital equipment.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), manufacturing businesses in the West Midlands can also take advantage of our new streamlined Solutions for Business portfolio: eligible companies can gain support in areas such as training and skill development, resource efficiency, exploiting ideas, accessing international opportunities and growing your business. For example, we have just launched the Business Coaching for Growth programme, which aims to help up to 10,000 high growth businesses a year to address barriers to growth and grow more rapidly.

The new Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS), which was announced on 3 January, offers SMEs practical support on all aspects of manufacturing, including direct access to manufacturing experts with a proven track record. As one of the UK's main manufacturing regions the West Midlands is expected to be a major beneficiary of the new MAS.

Renewable Energy: Investment

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans he has to assess investments in *(a)* wave and tidal technology and *(b)* other innovative energy products against the criteria of additionality; [91698]

(2) what plans he has to assess *(a)* wave and tidal technology and *(b)* other innovative energy projects against the criteria of green impact. [91699]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 299-300W.

Students: Finance

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of *(a)* public expenditure on and *(b)* the face value student (i) maintenance and (ii) tuition fee loans in (A) cash terms and (B) 2011-12 values in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [92945]

Mr Willetts: Department estimates of *(a)* resource costs and *(b)* cash outlay on student maintenance and tuition fee loans between 2011-12 and 2015-16, consistent with the impact assessment published alongside the 2011 Higher Education White Paper, are as follows:

(£ million)

	11-12	*12-13*	*13-14*	*14-15*	*15-16*
Cash outlay maintenance loans					
Cash	3,100	3,200	3,300	3,450	3,550
11-12 prices	3,100	3,100	3,150	3,200	3,200
Fee loans					
Cash	2,650	3,550	5,050	6,350	7,250
11-12 prices	2,650	3,450	4,800	5,900	6,550

(£ million)

	11-12	*12-13*	*13-14*	*14-15*	*15-16*
Resource maintenance loans					
Cash	850	900	1,000	1,100	1,150
11-12 prices	850	900	950	1,000	1,050
Fee loans					
Cash	700	1,050	1,600	2,150	2,500
11-12 prices	700	1,000	1,550	2,000	2,250

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the resource accounting and budgeting charge on student loans made to *(a)* current and *(b)* new students from 2010 of changes in assumptions and modelling of student loan repayments described in his Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11. [92950]

Mr Willetts: The Department's annual report sets out a number of changes to the assumptions and modelling of student loan repayments that were made in 2010-11. The two key changes were:

(i) to adjust the methodology to use the latest Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) short term forecasts for RPI and average earnings growth;

(ii) to provide for the impact of the lower interest charge to borrowers as a result of the low Bank of England base rate.

The valuation is based on the best estimate of the present value of future repayments over the repayment term (25 years for post-06/07 students and to age 65 for pre-06/07 students).

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills issued £5.6 billion of new loans to students in 2010-11. The resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) charge on these loans was 33%. This compares to the original RAB charge of 28% and resulted in a decrease in the valuation of around £300 million. The pre 2010-11 stock of loans was decreased by around £2.3 billion as a result of these changes, producing a final loan book (impaired) value of £25 billion at 31 March 2011.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 231W, on third sector, on what dates the joint Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Cabinet Office Steering Group has met; what was discussed at each meeting; and if he will make a statement. [92507]

Mr Davey: The first meeting of the Every Business Commits Steering Group was on 18 January 2012 and the Group agreed terms of reference setting out its leadership and oversight roles. The meeting also heard updates on the business-led initiatives Business Connectors and Trading for Good, and a presentation about business-led standards for transparent information on social and environmental impacts. The Group will now meet quarterly.

CABINET OFFICE

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many unpaid and expenses-only interns the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible employed between May and November 2010. [92959]

Mr Hurd *[holding answer 31 January 2012]:* During the period May 2010 and November 2010, none of the Cabinet Office NDPBs that existed at the time employed unpaid and/or expenses only interns.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions he has had with what outcomes with the *(a)* Chairman and *(b)* Secretary of the Chilcot Inquiry about the recall of Tony Blair to the Committee; and if he will make a statement. [92375]

Mr Hurd: The Iraq Inquiry is independent of Government. While the Government continue to give the Inquiry their full co-operation, it is entirely a matter for the Inquiry whether or not to hold further hearings or to recall witnesses. Neither I nor my ministerial colleagues have had any discussions with the Inquiry Chairman, Sir John Chilcot, or the Secretary to the Inquiry about this matter. Sir John stated publicly on 2 February 2011 that the Inquiry had no plans for any further public hearings. I understand that that remains the Inquiry's position.

JCB

John Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contracts the Government has awarded to JCB and its associates since May 2010; and what the *(a)* net and *(b)* individual value of each such contract was. [92991]

Mr Hurd: Since January 2011, as part of the Government's programme to increase transparency, central Government Departments have been required to publish on Contracts Finder information on the contracts they award. Contracts Finder also provides access to procurement information published on Tenders Electronic Daily. The following table summarises contracts award notices originally published on Tender Electronic Daily and imported into Contract Finder. Further information is held by the relevant public sector bodies.

Please note the result of this search indicates no contracts were awarded to JCB from central Government, however a number were awarded, from the wider public sector as follows:

Supplier	*Procuring authority*	*Contract*	*Value (£)*
JCB Finance Ltd	Reading borough council	Financial leasing services	900,000
Watling JCB Ltd	Warwickshire county council	Transport equipment	539,364
JCB Finance Ltd	Bridgend county borough council	Financial leasing services	225,000

Supplier	*Procuring authority*	*Contract*	*Value (£)*
BC Plant JCB	Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland	Supply and delivery of 23-25 tonne excavator	[1]148,714
Scot JCB Ltd	Tayside Procurement Consortium	Grounds-maintenance equipment	23,500
Greenshields JCB Ltd	Braintree district council	Grounds-maintenance equipment	[2]—
Scot JCB Ltd	Aberdeenshire council	Tractors	[2]—
Scot JCB Ltd	West Lothian council	Lawnmowers	[2]—
Scot JCB Ltd	East Ayrshire council	Motor vehicles	[2]—
Holt JCB Ltd	Joint Procurement Unit	Agricultural and horticultural products	[2]—

[1] Tenders Electronic Daily entry shows value between £112,764 and up to £148,714.

[2] No data.

Public Bodies: Debts

Andrew Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to reduce the amount of debt owed to public bodies which is written off as uncollectable. [92462]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office is providing fresh leadership and focus on tackling debt owed to public bodies, including that which is written off. This is being done through the Fraud, Error and Debt Taskforce, which is chaired by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General. This cross-Whitehall group has membership from three other Ministers: the Minister for Welfare Reform at Department for Work and Pensions my noble Friend the Lord Freud, my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury and the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire), as well as senior officials from across the major Departments, representatives from the private sector and local authorities.

The Taskforce has taken steps to understand the scale and distribution of debt owed to public bodies including write-offs, and is now focused on helping public bodies to be more consistent and collaborative in tackling this issue in an efficient and effective manner.

Public Sector: Pay

John Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish details of the *(a)* net and *(b)* individual value of bonuses over £1,000 awarded within the public sector since May 2010. [92987]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has no plans to publish such details at present for the wider public sector. In the civil service, Departments and agencies have published details of non-consolidated performance related payments made to their staff for the performance year 2010-11. This information was published on departmental websites and linked to:

www.data.gov.uk

in October 2011.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Benefit

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 137W, on housing benefit, if he will estimate the number of properties available for social tenants seeking to downsize due to under-occupation. [92570]

Grant Shapps: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 24 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 137W.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to provide support for homeowners at risk of repossession. [92558]

Grant Shapps: The Government are helping homeowners in difficulty by tackling the record deficit, inherited from the last Administration, to prevent a rapid increase in interest rates hitting struggling households.

The Government are committed to working closely with lenders, debt advice agencies and local authorities to ensure that repossession is only ever a last resort and that effective help and advice for homeowners at risk of repossession is available. The options available to households are outlined at:

www.direct.gov.uk/mortgagehelp

The Government continue to provide direct financial support to struggling homeowners through Support for Mortgage Interest.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has extended the Mortgage Rescue Scheme which enables the most vulnerable homeowners at risk of repossession to remain in their homes. The October 2010 spending review confirmed £221 million to continue the scheme over the next two years. £86 million has been made available for 2011-12 and a further £86 million will be made available for 2012-13. Changes introduced in 2011 have reduced the unit cost enabling more households to benefit from the scheme.

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average cost of building a *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four bed home for social rent by (i) land and (ii) building cost. [92614]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* The Right to Buy draft Impact Assessment provides estimates based on the successful bids in Affordable Rent Programme. The average scheme cost of new social and affordable housing is estimated to range from £133,000 to £150,000 per home (England average).

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/reinvigoratingrighttobuy

We are unable to break this estimate down by homes according to the number of bedrooms, or by land and building costs.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Copyright

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the economic effect to the creative industries of implementing the proposal to *(a)* introduce an exception from copyright law for data mining and *(b)* widen the exception from copyright law for criticism and review. [91776]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Initial impact assessments on each of the copyright issues, including data mining and criticism and review, have been prepared with the advice of Government economists, using publicly available data. The Government invite interested parties to respond to the Government's copyright consultation, which runs until 21 March 2012, and to submit economic evidence of the impacts of these proposals may have on creators and users of copyright materials to help refine our analysis. The consultation and the accompanying initial impact assessments are available in the Libraries of the House and on the website of the Intellectual Property Office.

Olympic Games 2012: Northern Ireland

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on steps to ensure benefits arising from the London 2012 Olympics accrue to the devolved regions. [92807]

Hugh Robertson: Government officials, and the Nations and Regions Group which includes representation from each of the Nations and English regions, are in regular contact with officials in the devolved Administrations on a range of issues relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In my capacity as Minister for Sport and the Olympics, I have discussed the London 2012 Games with the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure for Northern Ireland in October. In March I also met with the then Minister, Nelson McCausland, while on a regional visit.

UK Nations and Regions are making the most of the opportunities and benefits from the sporting, economic, and cultural programmes provided by the games, for example, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism, Pre Games Training Camps, the Torch Relay, the Inspire programme and cultural celebrations.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Statement of Intent on Carrier Co-operation and Maritime Power Projection with the US; [91944]

(2) if he will estimate the cost of the operations with the US on training covered by the Statement of Intent on Carrier Co-operation and Maritime Power Projection in each year up to 2020; [91945]

(3) if he will estimate the cost of the number of personnel who will be assigned to training covered by the Statement of Intent on Carrier Co-operation and Maritime Power Projection; and what training they will receive. [91946]

Peter Luff: The Statement of Intent, jointly signed at Defence Secretary level on 5 January 2012, provides a high level framework for US/UK co-operation as the UK regenerates a carrier strike capability. Principal co-operative activities, including training, will be taken forward progressively through the working group structure established by the Statement of Intent and may, if necessary, be subject to separate and specific agreements. It is not possible at this early stage to provide estimates of costs that might arise from co-operative activities undertaken within the framework of the Statement of Intent.

The document will be placed in the Library of the House.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 416W, on aircraft carriers, whether his Department has conducted, or plans to conduct, investigations into the compatibility of advanced arresting gear with the Joint Combat Aircraft; and whether it has contributed, or intends to contribute, resources to investigations carried out by the US; [92453]

(2) on what date his Department was first made aware of compatibility issues in relation to the advanced arresting gear and the Joint Combat Aircraft. [92454]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence is aware of the F35C Arrestor Hook compatibility issues, which came to light during Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) testing in August 2011. Discoveries of this nature can only be expected during development of such complex technology and design solutions to the Arrestor Hook arrangements are already well advanced. These will be tested and proven as part of the ongoing JSF development test programme, in which the UK is fully engaged as a level one partner, with approximately 40 civilian and military personnel embedded across various US sites.

Armed Forces: Life Insurance

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of the soldiers who served in the conflict in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq were covered by PAX life insurance but with fewer than 15 units of insurance; [89478]

(2) how many soldiers who have served in the conflict in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq did so while being covered by PAX life insurance; [89518]

(3) how many soldiers who have served in the conflict in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq served without having PAX life insurance or any other life insurance; [89519]

(4) how many soldiers who have served in the conflict in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq were killed without having either PAX life insurance or any other life insurance. [89559]

Mr Robathan: I will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Substantive answer from Andrew Robathan to Jim Murphy:

I undertook to write to you on 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 437W, in answer to your question about PAX, and other insurance held by service personnel serving in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts, the data requested can be found as follows:

Afghanistan

	Number
Served with less than 15 units of PAX Insurance	26,400
Served with PAX Insurance	55,900
Served without PAX or any other life insurance	[1]35,600
Killed without PAX or any other life insurance	[1]50

Iraq

	Number
Served with less than 15 units of PAX Insurance	6,400
Served with PAX Insurance	9,500
Served without PAX or any other life insurance	[1]10,300
Killed without PAX or any other life insurance	[1,2]—

[1] Figures provided relate solely to PAX life insurance as data about other life insurance that may have been taken out are not held.

[2] '—' = Represents five or fewer.

Notes:

1. For the purposes of the reply all members of the armed forces, irrespective of service, have been included. The data are provided from 1 April 2007 onward as information prior to this date is not held.
2. With the exception of data for the number of personnel killed in Afghanistan (which have been rounded to the nearest 10), other figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Some personnel recorded as not having PAX insurance may nonetheless be covered by their spouses PAX insurance (i.e. where both husband and wife are serving members of the armed forces).
4. Personnel whose location details are deliberately obscured for security reasons will not be reflected in the data.

Civil Servants: Allowances

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has any plans to remove the London allowance for its civil servants who live in London. [92635]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) remunerates civilian staff through a London pay scale and through the payment of London weighting allowance. Both allowances are paid to staff who work in London. The MOD has no current plans to remove either of these payments.

Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report,* columns 18-19W, on departmental recruitment, how much of the £21,926.18 spent on recruitment agencies was spent on agency *(a)* fees and *(b)* staff. [92599]

Mr Robathan: All of the expenditure reported in my previous answer covered recruitment agency fees.

Work Experience

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work experience or traineeship schemes his Department offers to minority groups. [92751]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) participates in the civil service summer diversity internship programme which aims to provide high calibre undergraduates or graduates with six to eight week work placements within Departments. In its current format it provides opportunities for black and ethnic minority and lower socio-economic students. Further information about this scheme can be found at the following link:

http://faststream.civilservice.gov.uk/Summer-Diversity-Internships/

In 2011, the MOD also participated in a separate pilot cross-Whitehall scheme, aimed at sixth form college level students (16 to 18-year-olds). This offered four two-week placements for individuals from under-represented backgrounds. Following the success of the pilot, the MOD will continue to support this scheme.

Diamond Jubilee 2012: Medals

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make it his policy to award the Queen's Jubilee Medal to all military personnel who have served for four years in combat operations; [92448]

(2) for what reason the minimum required military service for the Queen's Jubilee Medal is set at five years. [92449]

Mr Robathan: The Department for Culture Media and Sport announced on 28 June 2011 the Government's intention to award and distribute a diamond jubilee medal. Medals are traditionally awarded for royal jubilees to recognise and reward the service and dedication of key front line services and, in particular, to those who are exposed regularly to difficult, often emergency situations and who potentially risk their lives.

The announcement made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport stated that members of the armed forces (regular and reserves) who have completed five full calendar years of service, and are serving on 6 February 2012, will be presented with a medal to mark Her Majesty the Queen's diamond jubilee. These criteria are consistent with the approach adopted for earlier jubilee medals, such as the golden jubilee in 2002.

Ex-servicemen: Resettlement

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the careers advice provided to service personnel upon the conclusion of their service. [92533]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence fully understands that making the transition from the armed forces into civilian life can be daunting and we remain committed to supporting service leavers in making this important step. Critical to this is having in place a robust and effective resettlement system that allows our service personnel to serve secure in the knowledge that they will receive professional and tailored assistance upon leaving.

To monitor the quality of the careers advice we offer our people, there are in place a number of governance procedures, through nationally recognised accreditation standards as well as internal monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. As a result, 95% of entitled service personnel who are leaving the armed forces elect to use the advice we offer them.

Harrier Aircraft: Sales

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 940W, on Harrier aircraft, (1) what monetary value was given to the associated support equipment included in the sale of the Harrier aircraft; [92456]

(2) what the original cost was of the associated support equipment included in the sale of the Harrier aircraft to the US; and if he will make a statement; [92457]

(3) which company or companies invoiced his Department for *(a)* £0.7 million and *(b)* £0.4 million for consultancy services associated with the sale of Harrier aircraft to the US; what the consultancy services provided were; and how many hours of work, by how many consultants, these payments were for. [92458]

Peter Luff: The sale value of 72 Harrier airframes spares and associated support equipment to the US Government was negotiated and agreed as a consolidated package.

The majority of support equipment used to support the former Harrier fleet has been acquired since 1996 but information on the original purchase cost is no longer held. At the time of the sale to the US Government the value of support equipment recorded on the Ministry of Defence Supply Central Computer System (SCCS) was approximately £15 million. However, not all equipment used to support the Harrier is registered on the SCCS.

External assistance to both the termination of the Harrier contracts (£0.7 million) and the disposal of the aircraft (£0.4 million) was obtained through an existing contract with AlixPartners. The support provided covered the provision of specialist negotiation assistance in the closure of the Harrier airframe and engine contracts, and negotiation advice and assistance in the preparation for, and conduct of, sale negotiations with the US. This was provided by a core of three consultants, with occasional additional support from two senior partners and represented a total of 206 man-days.

Military Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 947W, on military aircraft, when he expects to publish the findings of the capability investigation on maritime surveillance capability; and if he will make a statement. [92528]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has completed its capability investigation into its long term requirements for maritime surveillance capability, but I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Data Protection

Mr David Davis: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many cases of data loss or breaches of confidentiality occurred in his Office in 2011. [92974]

The Deputy Prime Minister: For the purposes of corporate administration and financial management, my office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General on 24 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 176W.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with representatives of each main political party on bringing forward the date for the introduction of individual electoral registration to 2014. [91185]

The Deputy Prime Minister: No such meetings have taken place.

EU Action

Ian Lucas: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 327W, on EU action, who attended the bilateral meetings held in his capacity as Deputy Prime Minister. [92992]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The bilateral meetings that I held in my capacity as Deputy Prime Minister were attended by a private secretary and a special adviser from my office.

EDUCATION

Child Protection

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children on the child protection plan had experienced *(a)* neglect, *(b)* emotional abuse, *(c)* physical abuse, *(d)* multiple abuses and *(e)* sexual abuse in each of the last five years. [92587]

Tim Loughton: The available figures are given in the table.

Children who were the subject of a child protection plan at 31 March each year, by initial category of abuse

Year ending 31 March	*Total children*	*Neglect*	*Physical abuse*	*Sexual abuse*	*Emotional abuse*	*Multiple*[1]
2007	27,900	12,500	3,500	2,000	7,100	2,700
2008	29,200	13,400	3,400	2,000	7,900	2,500
2009	34,100	15,800	4,400	2,000	9,100	2,900
2010	39,100	17,300	5,000	2,300	10,800	3,700
2011	42,700	18,600	4,800	2,400	11,400	5,500

[1] Four categories of abuse are described in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' guide (2010) and it is recommended that only the main category of abuse should be recorded. However in some cases more than one category is recorded and these are shown in the 'Multiple' column.

Sources:

1. 2007, 2008 and 2009 CPR3 return.
2. 2010, 2011 Children in Need census.

Information on children who are the subject of a child protection plan up to 2008-09 is taken from the aggregate level CPR3 survey of local authorities and can be found in the Statistical First Release 'Referrals, assessments and children and young people who were the subject of a child protection plan, England—year ending 31 March 2009' available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000873/index.shtml

From 2009-10 onwards figures are sourced from the annual child level Children in Need census. The latest figures (2011) are published in table 20 of the Statistical First Release 'Characteristics of Children in Need, 2010-11, Final' which is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d001041/index.shtml

Caution should be exercised therefore when making comparisons between 2008-09 and 2009-10 onwards.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were on the Child Protection Register in each region *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a percentage of all children in the last year for which figures are available. [92588]

Tim Loughton: The available information is given in the following table.

Number and rate of children who were the subject of a child protection plan in each region in England, at 31 March 2011

Region	*Number*	*Rate per 10,000 children (aged 0-17 years)*	*Percentage of all children in region (aged 0-17 years)*
Total England	42,700	38.7	0.4
North-east	2,700	51.0	0.5
North-west	6,300	42.5	0.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,400	40.0	0.4
East midlands	3,600	38.3	0.4
West midlands	4,900	41.2	0.4
East of England	4,000	31.8	0.3
London	6,500	38.6	0.4
South-east	6,800	37.2	0.4
South-west	3,600	33.9	0.3

Note:

The number of children who were the subject of a children protection plan are rounded to the nearest 100 therefore regional figures may not sum to England total.

Source:

DFE Children in Need census, 2010-11, and ONS Population Estimates Unit.

The rate per 10,000 children in each region is also provided, in addition to the percentage of all children, as this is the standard measure published annually. Figures for the number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan are collected annually from local authorities through the child level Children in Need census. These figures are published annually in table 18 of the Statistical First Release 'Characteristics of Children in Need, 2010-11, Final' which is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d001041/index.shtml

Children: Social Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many referrals to children's social care services took place in each region *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 10,000 children in the last year for which figures are available. [92586]

Tim Loughton: The available information is given in the following table.

Referrals to children's social services, year ending 31 March 2011

Region	*Number of referrals*[1]	*Rate per 10,000 children (aged 0-17 years)*
Total England	615,000	556.8
North-east	30,800	590.4
North-west	91,400	620.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	69,200	626.5
East midlands	52,100	560.1
West midlands	74,300	621.6
East of England	56,600	455.1
London	89,200	525.9
South-east	98,400	538.6
South-west	53,200	503.6

[1] If a child has more than one referral in the year then each instance is counted.

Source:

DFE Children in Need census, 2010-11, and ONS Population Estimates Unit. Referral numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 therefore regional figures may not sum to England total.

Figures for the number of referrals to children's social services are collected annually from local authorities through the child level Children in Need census. These figures are published annually in table 14 of the Statistical First Release 'Characteristics of Children in Need, 2010-11, Final' which is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d001041/index.shtm

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of expenditure by each local authority *(a)* overall and *(b)* per head of population on Sure Start and children's services in each of the last 10 years. [92906]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education does not have a record of the overall expenditure by local authorities on Sure Start and children's services for each of the last 10 years. Data on expenditure per head of population in local authorities over the last 10 years are also not available.

However, expenditure by local authorities on some children's services is recorded in the Section 251 return which is available at:

http://education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/financeandfunding/section251/archive

Prior to April 2011 funding for Sure Start was routed through a series of ring-fenced grants. Local Authorities' expenditure through these grants on Sure Start children's centres and other child care activities and support up to 2009-10 are shown in tables 1 to 3, which have been placed in the House Libraries. The local authority allocations for 2010-11 are also shown in table 3.

Since 2011-12, the Early Intervention Grant has replaced numerous ring-fenced funding streams related to children, young people and families. It is now up to local authorities to choose how to make best use of their resources, taking account of their statutory duties and local needs. The allocations for each local authority are available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/a0070357/early-intervention-grant-frequently-asked-questions/

Health Education: Mental Illness

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to increase awareness of mental health disorders in schools. [92874]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 31 January 2012]:* The Government acknowledge the link between mental health, good academic outcomes and later life chances, and recognise the valuable role schools can play in supporting children's mental health. We want to ensure schools are aware of the role they can play and have access to services that support children and young people.

The Department is carrying out a range of work that will increase awareness of mental health in schools. We are engaging with schools, local authorities and the voluntary and community sector to understand their experiences of providing and accessing mental health support better. We are strengthening work force development and ensuring schools know where to get help by investing in the voluntary and community sector—through YoungMinds—to work with schools, parents, children and young people displaying emotional and behavioural difficulties to develop a framework for support. We are also funding a YoungMinds-led consortium to build voluntary and community sector capacity to deliver early intervention mental health support to children and young people.

The new Ofsted Framework 2012 requires inspectors to report on the impact of: leadership at all levels, progress of disadvantaged groups, behaviour, safety and safeguarding, and schools' relationship with parents and carers. Having a sound approach to supporting children's emotional well-being and mental health will play a significant part in getting all of these right.

Alongside this, we are working closely with the Department of Health, which is funding Time to Change to take forward work to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination. This work includes a focus on reaching children and young people, and also their peers, families, relevant agencies, schools, NHS services (including A&E and GPs) and groups of vulnerable children and young people. We are working with the Department of Health to determine what this means for schools and to ensure that this is child and young person-appropriate.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Community Energy Saving Programme

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the emissions reduction achieved in the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) since it started; and what proportion of the overall CESP target has been met. [93205]

Gregory Barker: The last published Ofgem figures show that emission reductions achieved to June 2011 are estimated at 1.4 $MtCO_2$, representing 7.2% of the target. Ofgem estimates that the CESP schemes submitted for approval to June 2011 amounted to around 50% of the total notional CESP target of 19.25 $MtCO_2$.

Ofgem will be publishing updated figures to the end of 2011 as part of their annual report on CESP progress in May this year. The precise amount of carbon dioxide saved under the CESP will not be known until the completion of the reconciliation exercise after the programme ends in 2012.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many cases of data loss or breaches of confidentiality occurred in his Department in 2011. [92975]

Gregory Barker: No cases of data loss or breaches of confidentiality occurred in the Department in 2011.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92826]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has not agreed any contracts with private hire vehicle companies or taxi companies since May 2010.

Departmental staff have used the following companies on an ad-hoc basis; Addison Lee, Balmoral Transport service, Business Car Hire, Computer cab PLC, Dial a cab, Government Car and Despatch Agency and Green Tomato Cars Ltd.

Energy

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of the total domestic energy needs which will be met by *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity in each of the next 20 years. [92048]

Charles Hendry: As part of its annual emissions and energy projections DECC publish different scenarios for energy consumption. The scenarios are based on a number of assumptions and take account of energy and climate change policies where decisions on policy design are sufficiently advanced to allow robust estimates of policy impacts to be made before October 2011. The following table shows the numbers for the central scenario published in October 2011.

The projections do not include additional policies to meet the 4th carbon budget. DECC has published scenarios on ways to meet the 4th carbon budget and pathways to 2050 targets in the Carbon Plan published in December 2011:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/tackling-climate-change/carbon-plan/3702-the-carbon-plan-delivering-our-low-carbon-future.pdf

Assumptions underlying the estimates in the table are described in detail in DECC

updated 'Energy and Emissions Projections' publication 2011 available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/en_emis_projs/en_emis_projs.aspx

The following table summarises the projected consumption of electricity, gas and total energy over the period 2012-30.

Projected shares of electricity and gas in UK final energy consumption (2012-30)—central scenario (DECC Energy and Emissions Projections October 2011)

	Electricity	Gas
2012	18.8	34.0
2013	18.8	33.5
2014	18.9	33.0
2015	19.0	32.5
2016	19.0	32.0
2017	19.1	31.5
2018	19.2	30.9
2019	19.3	30.2
2020	19.4	29.4
2021	19.5	29.5
2022	19.7	29.4
2023	19.9	29.3
2024	20.0	29.4
2025	20.2	29.6
2026	20.4	29.8
2027	20.8	30.1
2028	21.1	30.5
2029	21.3	30.8
2030	21.6	31.0

Energy: Conservation

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to reduce the costs of green energy. [92022]

Gregory Barker: If we are to combat climate change, secure our energy supplies and seize the economic opportunities that green industries offer, it is vital that we increase the proportion of low-carbon or "green" energy in the economy, as well as improve energy efficiency. The coalition Government are committed to ensuring that this happens in the most cost-effective and affordable way. Some examples of the steps being taken to reduce and control the costs of low-carbon energy include:

Reviewing the levels of support ('RO bands') under the renewables obligation, with a focus on delivering renewable energy to help meet the 2020 renewables target in a cost-effective manner in order to minimise costs to consumers. The RO banding review consultation closed on 12 January 2012, and the Government will assess any new evidence and the consultation responses before announcing the final decisions in the Government response in time to enact legislation for implementation of the new bands on 1 April 2013.

Proposals for electricity market reform that will provide a more cost-effective means of decarbonising electricity supplies and keeping the lights on.

Funding technology innovation to bring down the costs of low-carbon technologies and develop new technologies. DECC has allocated over £150 million over the four years from April 2011 to support innovation in key low-carbon technologies. In total, the UK Government expect to invest in excess of £800 million over four years in the research, development and demonstration of low-carbon technologies.

Introducing a framework to control levy funded spending by DECC at Budget 2011. This framework, covering the renewables obligation, feed-in tariff scheme and the Warm Home Discount, forms part of the Government's public spending framework which the Treasury has responsibility for.

Steps are also being taken to keep energy bills down for all consumers by helping them to save energy, with particular support targeted at the most vulnerable households and businesses. For example, the new Green Deal scheme will help households and businesses save money through energy efficiency improvements at no upfront cost.

In aggregate, policies are estimated to help households save money in future. DECC estimates that in 2020 the average household energy bill is expected to be 7%, or £94 (in real 2010 prices), lower than if the Government were not pursuing policies to achieve energy savings and incentivise the shift from fossil fuels to alternatives—see:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/about-us/economics-social-research/3593-estimated-impacts-of-our-policies-on-energy-prices.pdf

A net saving will start from around 2013 and, over the remaining lifetime of this Parliament, average household bills will be lower than they otherwise would be, as a result of energy and climate policies.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support the energy company obligation will provide to people in low-paid work who are at risk of fuel poverty but not receiving benefits. [92652]

Gregory Barker: Government held a consultation on the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation from 23 November 2011 to 18 January 2012. Under the proposals set out, the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation will allow households to access energy efficiency measures at no up-front cost, providing extra assistance to those who need it most. We have proposed that the Affordable Warmth element of ECO should be targeted at low income and vulnerable households, using means tested benefits as one of the best means of identifying those likely to be fuel poor. Under our proposals, all households would be able to access the support available under the carbon reduction element of ECO—including those in low-paid work who are at risk of fuel poverty but not receiving benefits.

We are considering carefully responses to this consultation and the final details of the policy will be published in due course.

Green Deal

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the expected level of take-up for the Green Deal in *(a)* 2013, *(b)* 2014 and *(c)* 2015. [92654]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) consultation was published on 23 November 2011. The Government's assessment of the impact of these policies was published in the accompanying draft impact assessment:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/green-deal/3603-green-deal-eco-ia.pdf

The Green Deal will be a market based mechanism, therefore actual levels of uptake will be driven by players in the market, and not regulated by Government. For the purpose of the draft impact assessment, the analysis of the central policy scenario estimated the following level of Green Deal uptake:

	Number of green deal plans
2013	460,000
2014	502,000
2015	504,000

The analysis combined a range of evidence and assumptions. In particular, it was assumed that there were no supply chain constraints restricting the delivery of energy efficiency measures. During the consultation, DECC is seeking responses to strengthen the evidence base underlying our assessments, and new evidence will be factored into the analysis for the final impact assessment.

Insulation: Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of new loft insulation installations in *(a)* 2013, *(b)* 2014, *(c)* 2015 and *(d)* 2016. [92656]

Gregory Barker: DECC's current estimates for the uptake of loft insulation can be found in the following link to the impact assessment, which was published alongside the Green Deal and ECO consultation document in November 2011:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/green_deal/green_deal.aspx

The impact assessment is being reviewed to take account of consultation responses and new evidence, and a final version will be published alongside the Government response.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to make a decision on the inclusion of bioliquids in the Renewable Heat Incentive. [92897]

Gregory Barker: As stated in the Renewable Heat Incentive policy document (published in March), we are considering whether to support bioliquids as part of developing the second phase of the scheme. In the light of the later than expected launch of phase one of the Renewable Heat Incentive and of the changes required by the European Commission, we are reviewing the timetable for the introduction of phase two and will confirm the timetable early in 2012.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions with Ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive on bioliquids and the Renewable Heat Incentive. [92898]

Gregory Barker: DECC officials have had general discussions with their counterparts at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Northern Ireland) about the Renewable Heat Incentive but there have been no discussions specifically about bioliquids.

Thermal Insulation

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of new solid wall insulation installations in each year to 2020. [92653]

Gregory Barker: DECC's current estimates for the uptake of solid wall insulation can be found in the following link to the impact assessment, which was published alongside the Green Deal and ECO consultation document in November 2011.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/green_deal/green_deal.aspx

The impact assessment is being reviewed to take account of consultation responses and new evidence, and a final version will be published alongside the Government response.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of new cavity wall insulation installations in *(a)* 2013, *(b)* 2014, *(c)* 2015 and *(d)* 2016. [92655]

Gregory Barker: DECC's current estimates for the uptake of cavity wall insulation can be found in the following link to the impact assessment, which was published alongside the Green Deal and ECO consultation document in November 2011:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/green_deal/green_deal.aspx

The impact assessment is being reviewed to take account of consultation responses and new evidence, and a final version will be published alongside the Government response.

Water Turbines

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential for the use of water turbines to generate electricity; and whether he has considered the effect of the use of such turbines on fish sea stocks. [92303]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not undertake assessments of the potential use of water turbines to generate electricity. Project developers intending to deploy water turbines to generate electricity need to submit an environmental impact assessment (EIA) alongside their planning and consent application. The consenting bodies consider the potential impacts of the devices to be use on the local environment on a case by case basis. If consent is granted any mitigation measure considered necessary to protect the environment will form part of the consent conditions. It is very important that we strike the right balance between environmental protection and energy deployment.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Products: Prices

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the annual percentage change in the retail prices index was for *(a)* milk, *(b)* beef, *(c)* sheep meat, *(d)* pig meat, *(e)* chicken and *(f)* wheat in each year since 1990. [R] [92928]

Mr Paice: The following tables show the annual average retail price index (Jan 1987=100) and percentage change since the previous year for each commodity:

	Bread	*Cereals*	*Beef*	*Pork*	*Lamb*	*Home-killed lamb*	*Bacon*	*Poultry*	*Fresh milk*
1990	121.0	123.7	124.2	124.0	112.1	111.3	126.8	115.9	123.3
1991	130.4	131.8	124.7	122.4	107.1	105.6	128.6	114.9	132.6
1992	134.8	135.8	125.4	126.1	113.5	114.9	137.3	111.4	138.0
1993	138.6	139.0	135.3	122.2	124.6	127.3	138.5	110.2	141.0
1994	135.9	137.6	132.5	118.5	127.8	133.5	134.5	107.8	144.9
1995	136.2	140.3	133.7	127.0	128.8	138.9	137.3	106.1	150.9
1996	138.7	141.6	135.0	153.3	148.2	158.6	155.6	112.1	153.7
1997	136.8	141.5	132.1	149.3	154.9	157.1	161.4	112.5	153.4
1998	135.2	141.7	129.5	132.6	144.4	145.8	149.9	111.1	153.5
1999	135.2	140.5	133.0	127.7	145.3	149.7	151.7	110.2	152.2
2000	136.5	137.9	133.2	135.2	150.9	158.8	157.2	107.4	151.0
2001	139.5	139.2	133.7	143.2	158.2	164.3	173.6	110.4	160.1
2002	142.8	138.2	133.3	146.8	169.9	176.4	172.0	108.1	164.6
2003	146.1	140.2	131.9	151.8	179.5	190.1	171.5	109.9	170.4
2004	154.8	140.5	134.3	157.7	187.3	191.6	173.5	118.2	173.7
2005	155.4	144.5	133.1	157.8	188.5	186.6	174.0	113.4	183.0
2006	164.7	144.3	138.3	157.5	187.0	189.8	181.7	109.3	184.5
2007	178.4	148.2	141.3	158.2	188.4	191.4	186.3	113.2	201.3
2008	205.9	167.2	161.9	182.1	205.1	215.6	203.6	128.3	229.9
2009	211.7	179.8	175.5	196.3	229.3	239.6	213.7	130.9	245.0
2010	212.1	182.9	174.6	203.3	241.3	259.3	210.8	130.9	242.8
2011	213.0	183.7	174.6	204.7	243.3	260.1	211.0	131.3	243.0

Percentage change

	Bread	*Cereals*	*Beef*	*Pork*	*Lamb*	*Home-killed lamb*	*Bacon*	*Poultry*	*Fresh milk*
1990-91	7.8	6.6	0.4	-1.3	-4.5	-5.1	1.4	-0.9	7.5
1991-92	3.4	3.0	0.6	3.0	6.0	8.8	6.8	-3.1	4.1
1992-93	2.8	2.4	7.9	-3.1	9.8	10.8	0.9	-1.1	2.2
1993-94	-2.0	-1.0	-2.1	-3.0	2.6	4.9	-2.9	-2.2	2.8
1994-95	0.2	2.0	0.9	7.2	0.8	4.0	2.1	-1.6	4.1
1995-96	1.8	0.9	1.0	20.7	15.1	14.2	13.3	5.7	1.9
1996-97	-1.4	-0.1	-2.2	-2.6	4.5	-1.0	3.7	0.4	-0.2
1997-98	-1.2	0.1	-2.0	-11.2	-6.8	-7.2	-7.1	-1.2	0.1
1998-99	0.0	-0.9	2.7	-3.7	0.6	2.7	1.2	-0.8	-0.9
1999-2000	1.0	-1.9	0.2	5.9	3.9	6.1	3.6	-2.5	-0.8
2000-01	2.2	0.9	0.4	5.9	4.8	3.5	10.4	2.8	6.0
2001-02	2.4	-0.7	-0.3	2.5	7.4	7.4	-0.9	-2.1	2.8
2002-03	2.3	1.4	-1.1	3.4	5.6	7.8	-0.3	1.6	3.5
2003-04	6.0	0.2	1.8	3.9	4.3	0.8	1.2	7.6	2.0
2004-05	0.4	2.9	-0.8	0.1	0.6	-2.6	0.3	-4.1	5.4
2005-06	6.0	-0.2	3.9	-0.2	-0.8	1.7	4.4	-3.6	0.8

Percentage change

	Bread	*Cereals*	*Beef*	*Pork*	*Lamb*	*Home-killed lamb*	*Bacon*	*Poultry*	*Fresh milk*
2006-07	8.3	2.7	2.2	0.4	0.7	0.9	2.5	3.6	9.1
2007-08	15.4	12.8	14.6	15.2	8.9	12.6	9.3	13.3	14.2
2008-09	2.8	7.5	8.4	7.8	11.8	11.1	5.0	2.1	6.6
2009-10	0.2	1.7	-0.5	3.6	5.2	8.3	-1.3	0.0	-0.9
2010-11	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1

Source:
Office of National Statistics

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the annual percentage change in the retail prices was for *(a)* milk, *(b)* beef, *(c)* sheep meat, *(d)* pig meat, *(e)* chicken and *(f)* wheat in each year since 1990. [R] [92929]

Mr Paice: I will place the information requested in the Library of the House.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the annual percentage change in farm gate prices was for *(a)* milk, *(b)* beef, *(c)* sheep meat, *(d)* pig meat, *(e)* chicken and *(f)* wheat in each year since 1990. [R] [92930]

Mr Paice: The following tables show the annual UK prices (GB for sheep) and percentage change since the previous year for each commodity. The prices shown are actual prices and have not been adjusted for inflation:

	Milk (pence per litre)[1]	*Milk percentage change*	*Finished cattle (p/kg liveweight)*[2]	*Cattle percentage change*	*Sheep meat (p/kg)*[3]	*Sheep meat percentage change*
1990	18.5	—	106.3	—	174.5	—
1991	19.9	8	106.9	1	148.2	-15
1992	21.0	6	109.6	3	182.1	23
1993	22.0	5	128.0	17	219.0	20
1994	22.4	2	121.7	-5	236.9	8
1995	24.9	11	123.2	1	236.4	0
1996	25.0	0	105.5	-14	283.1	20
1997	22.1	-12	96.9	-8	239.0	-16
1998	19.4	-12	86.1	-11	192.5	-19
1999	18.3	-6	92.1	7	180.3	-6
2000	16.9	-8	89.8	-2	196.4	9
2001	19.3	14	87.5	-3	—	—
2002	17.1	-11	91.4	4	233.4	—
2003	18.0	5	95.2	4	271.1	16
2004	18.5	3	101.2	6	262.6	-3
2005	18.5	0	102.2	1	250.0	-5
2006	18.0	-3	110.6	8	258.5	3
2007	20.7	15	112.3	2	236.8	-8
2008	25.9	25	144.8	29	297.6	26
2009	23.7	-8	154.6	7	360.4	21
2010 (provisional)	24.7	4	147.2	-5	389.3	8

[1] Farmgate price of milk including bonus payments—pence per litre.
[2] Finished cattle (All prime cattle)—pence per kg liveweight
[3] Finished sheep (GB prices)—pence per kg estimated dressed carcase weight
Source:
Agriculture in the United Kingdom

	Pig meat (p/kg)[1]	*Pig meat percentage change*	*Chicken (p/kg)*[2]	*Chicken percentage change*	*Feed wheat (£/tonne)*	*Feed wheat percentage change*
1990	—	—	87.0	—	106.0	—
1991	102.4	—	81.2	-7	117.1	10
1992	115.1	12	83.0	2	117.9	1
1993	103.0	-11	87.4	5	117.4	0
1994	99.6	-3	87.4	0	102.4	-13
1995	118.8	19	84.2	-4	110.2	8
1996	137.7	16	91.0	8	111.0	1
1997	110.8	-20	86.2	-5	89.0	-20
1998	80.7	-27	76.7	-11	75.0	-16

	Pig meat (p/kg)[1]	*Pig meat percentage change*	*Chicken (p/kg)*[2]	*Chicken percentage change*	*Feed wheat (£/tonne)*	*Feed wheat percentage change*
1999	78.5	-3	72.1	-6	73.0	-3
2000	94.2	20	70.5	-2	65.9	-10
2001	97.8	4	71.0	1	70.7	7
2002	93.3	-5	69.7	-2	67.0	-5
2003	102.7	10	72.2	4	68.7	3
2004	102.9	0	74.1	3	77.8	13
2005	102.9	0	73.2	-1	66.4	-15
2006	104.2	1	71.9	-2	71.7	8
2007	107.1	3	77.4	8	99.0	38
2008	126.3	18	97.5	26	126.6	28
2009	145.7	15	101.3	4	107.8	-15
2010 (provisional)	141.7	-3	104.3	3	112.6	4

[1] Clean pigs—pence per kg deadweight.

[2] Chicken and other table fowls—pence per kg carcase weight.

Source:

Agriculture in the United Kingdom

Agriculture: Employment

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of people aged between 16 and 25 entering employment in the farming industry in each of the last five years. [92978]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not hold this information.

Agriculture: Exports

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the meeting of the right hon. Member for Don Valley with the Minister of State responsible for agriculture and food on 25 October 2011, what the membership of the project board overseeing the review entitled Third Country Exports Facilitation Project is; and what progress has been made on the review. [92892]

Mr Paice: The board for this project is chaired by the Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer. Board members include: the British Poultry Council, Export Certification Limited, the Provision Trade Federation, the British Equestrian Federation, the devolved Administrations, the Chief Veterinary Officer's office, and representation from core DEFRA's and Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency's export certification teams. The project is identifying how the export certification service for animals and animal products at core DEFRA and the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency might be improved with a view to introducing changes from this autumn. It is also exploring options for transferring functions from Government to industry; how best to govern export certification work, and how the certification service should be funded. We expect to consult formally on proposals later this year.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the position of tenant farmers for the purposes of stewardship schemes under the Common Agricultural Policy in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland; and what information her Department holds on the application of single farm payments to tenants in other EU member states. [89313]

Mr Paice: At this early stage in the CAP reform negotiation process, it is not possible to assess with any degree of accuracy the likely impact on tenant farmers.

I have, however, pledged to do everything possible to make sure farmers are not disadvantaged because they have been ahead of the game on environmental management (such as having an Entry Level Stewardship agreement). If changes do have to be made to these agreements, we will want to make sure that farmers will be able to opt out without penalty.

DEFRA does not hold information on the application of single farm payments to tenants in other EU member states.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the recent ruling of the Austrian Constitutional Court discussing an application brought by Circus Krone to challenge Austria's ban on the use of wild animals in circuses, what steps her Department will take to introduce a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. [92617]

Mr Paice: As previously explained to the House, we are minded to introduce a ban, but have to be sure that a ban cannot be overturned by legal challenge. The implications of the Austrian court judgment for the situation here are being considered very carefully. In the meantime, we are proposing a tough new licensing regime, which can be introduced quickly, to ensure high welfare standards.

Deer Farms

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to promote deer farms. [92351]

Mr Paice: Deer farming is a viable part of the UK's agricultural industry. Land on which deer are reared is eligible to support payment claims under the Single Payment Scheme and deer farmers may also claim under a range of schemes set out in the UK rural development programme relevant to them. However, DEFRA has no plans actively to promote deer farms at present.

Fruit

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on how many portions of *(a)* fresh fruit and *(b)* vegetables the average person in each socio-economic grouping consumes per day. [91992]

Mr Paice: DEFRA holds information on food purchases by socio-economic groupings. The following table is calculated from fruit and vegetable purchases for household supplies. It excludes potatoes and excludes fruit and vegetables contained in composite products and eaten out. A portion size is taken to be 80 grams based on purchase weight. It is a broad approximation to consumption of five a day portions.

National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS SEC), 2010

	Average number of portions per person per day			
	Fresh fruit	*Processed fruit and fruit products (including fruit juice)*	*Fresh vegetables*	*Processed vegetables*
Employers in large organisations, higher managerial and professional occupations	1.5	0.9	1.5	0.6
Employers in small organisations, own account workers	1.5	0.7	1.5	0.6
Higher professional occupations	1.8	0.9	1.7	0.6
Intermediate occupations	1.1	0.7	1.2	0.7
Lower professional and managerial and higher technical and supervisory occupations	1.3	0.7	1.4	0.7
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	1.1	0.6	1.1	0.5
Never worked, long term unemployed and unclassified	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6
Routine	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.6
Semi-routine	1.0	0.4	1.1	0.5

Source:
Living Costs and Food Survey, DEFRA/ONS

Veterinary Services

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of veterinary surgeons in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [92148]

Mr Paice: As of 25 January 2012, the number of veterinary surgeons currently registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as UK (Home) Practising is 18,529. Figures are not held separately for England and Wales and to provide them would incur a disproportionate cost.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of intimidation of politicians and other senior officials in Afghanistan. [92299]

Alistair Burt: Insurgency intimidation and targeting of Afghan politicians is a matter for the Afghan Government and local law enforcement. The UK, through International Security Assistance Force, continues to help develop the capability of the Afghanistan National Security Forces to enable them to provide security and protect all Afghan people.

Bahrain: Overseas Workers

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the government of Bahrain on allowing expatriate workers to work in order to repay debts. [92446]

(2) What recent discussions he has had with the government of Bahrain on expatriate workers currently detained there as a result of debts. [92447]

Alistair Burt: The issue of travel bans, including in Bahrain, is one we take seriously. Our approach to travel bans is outlined in Support for British Nationals: A Guide, a copy of which was sent to you in September 2011. As Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice for Bahrain and elsewhere in the Middle East makes clear, non-payment of debt is viewed very seriously by host Governments, and travel bans can often be imposed. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised this issue with the Crown Prince in November 2010. I raised it with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when I visited in December. Our embassy is in regular contact with those British nationals affected by travel bans, and continue to raise those cases with members of the Bahraini Government. We will continue to do all we can to urge the authorities to allow British nationals to be able to live and work legally in Bahrain while subject to a travel ban.

Cyprus: Arms Control

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on the release of a Russian cargo ship containing a consignment of munitions destined for Syria by Cypriot authorities on 11 January 2012; what representations he has made to the Government of Cyprus on this matter; and if he will raise this issue as part of the review of the EU Common Position defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment. [92770]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 31 January 2012]:* We understand that on 10 January a Russian owned cargo ship loaded with munitions refuelled at a Cypriot port, after which we understand it travelled to Syria. When challenged by the Cypriot authorities assurances were given that the ship would travel on to Turkey.

On the information available to the UK Government this appears to be a breach of EU restrictive measures (sanctions) against Syria. I raised our concerns with the Cypriot Foreign Minister on 25 January. We are also discussing the matter with EU partners.

It may be appropriate to further clarify in the EU the interpretation of the Syria restrictive measures. We will consider whether any lessons learnt from this incident should be incorporated into the wider review of the EU Common Position.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if his Department will raise the recent Russian trans-shipment of arms through Cyprus as an urgent matter at the next meeting of the EU Working Party on conventional arms exports. [92771]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 31 January 2012]:* On the information available to the UK Government this appears to be a breach of EU restrictive measures (sanctions) against Syria. I raised our concerns with the Cypriot Foreign Minister on 25 January.

We are discussing the matter with EU partners. It may be appropriate to further clarify in the EU the interpretation of the Syria restrictive measures. However, the agenda and minutes of meetings of the European Union Council Working Group on Conventional Arms Exports (COARM) are not made publicly available and are restricted in order to enable full and frank discussion of export control policy issues by the representatives of EU member states.

Diego Garcia: Aviation

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what records are kept by the UK authorities of flights landing on Diego Garcia in March 2004. [92396]

Mr Bellingham: The UK does not hold any flight manifest information on flights which landed in Diego Garcia in March 2004. British Indian Ocean Territory immigration authorities hold immigration cards for civilians arriving in Diego Garcia during that period.

Egypt: Elections

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the outcome of the Egyptian elections on the middle east peace process. [92692]

Alistair Burt: The historic elections for the People's Assembly, and first sitting of the Lower House on 23 January, were important steps in Egypt's political transition. The Muslim Brotherhood's Democratic Alliance, which has emerged as the leading political grouping in the new Egyptian Lower House, has publicly committed to honouring all existing international treaties and agreements, including with Israel. We will urge all political parties in Egypt to play their part in supporting the middle east peace process, including by encouraging all stakeholders to engage constructively.

Egypt: Human Rights

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Egyptian Government on human rights. [92691]

Alistair Burt: Ministers have raised our concerns about human rights issues with the Egyptian authorities at every opportunity. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs spoke to the Egyptian Foreign Minister on 24 November 2011 to express his concern about the violence in Cairo, and urged the authorities to respect the right to peaceful protest. In statements in November and December, he expressed his deep concern about the violent clashes, and called for the Egyptian authorities to hold those responsible to account and release those detained for peacefully expressing their views.

The Deputy Prime Minister called on the Egyptian authorities to end the state of emergency, tackle the causes of sectarian tension and lobbied on the case of the arrested blogger Maikel Nabil Sanad, during his visit to Egypt in October.

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), issued a statement on 30 December 2011 in which he expressed our concerns about the raids against NGOs. He urged the Egyptian authorities to avoid taking action that would render the democratic process less inclusive. In discussions with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 24 January 2012, our ambassador in Cairo emphasised the need for transparent and consultative regulation of civil society.

Freedom of Information

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department publishes on its website its response to each request it receives under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether the response is published in the same part of its website on each occasion; and what the average time taken is between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website. [92114]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) draws on the Information Commissioner's policy on publishing freedom of information responses, as set out on the Commissioner's website. The FCO publishes replies that are of wider public interest, on the same part of its website on each occasion, and aims to do so within four weeks of the reply to a request. The average time taken between responding to a request and the information being made available on the website is available only at disproportionate cost.

Friends of Yemen

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met the Friends of Yemen; and when he next expects a meeting to take place. [92535]

Alistair Burt: We last convened Friends of Yemen on 24 September 2010 during the UN General Assembly in New York. The follow up meeting in Riyadh in March 2011 was suspended at Yemeni request due to ongoing protests and violence. We will discuss with our co-chair, Saudi Arabia, when to convene the next meeting. We hope it will be soon after the interim presidential elections to support the new Yemeni Government in national reconciliation and political reform.

Haiti: Foreign Aid

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department provides support to non-governmental human rights groups in Haiti; what information his Department holds on whether any support to such groups is provided multi-laterally through the EU; and if he will make a statement. [92093]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides some targeted support to non-governmental human rights groups in Haiti. Through our bilateral programme budget we are currently supporting the child rights organisation, Plan International, with a project to provide media training to young Haitians and spread messages about child rights. We also have a regular dialogue with human rights organisations in Haiti and raise human rights issues both directly with the Haitian Government and at the UN. UK development support to Haiti is channelled through our contributions to multilateral organisations such as the UN, EU, World Bank and Caribbean Development Bank. Since the earthquake in January 2010, the EU has provided over €100 million, including support to human rights and democracy groups.

Libya: Elections

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* prospects for and *(b)* likely timing of elections in Libya. [92690]

Alistair Burt: The National Transitional Council set out the roadmap for elections in their Constitutional Declaration of 21 June 2011. This included the target of National Congress elections within 240 days of the declaration of national liberation, in other words by June 2012, with legislative elections to follow in April 2013. We welcome the efforts made by the Transitional Government so far to achieve these targets, including the publication of a draft Elections Law for public consultation on 2 January and appointment of an Elections Commission on 22 January. The final Elections Law is expected to be published shortly.

We encourage the Transitional Government to adhere as closely as possible to their target of holding elections this summer in which Libyan society will be able to participate fully. We are pleased that the organisers are working closely with UN advisers to help them realise this goal.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli Government following the demolition of the homes of Bedouins in Anata in the west bank on 23 January 2012. [92955]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned at reports that Bedouin families were forcibly displaced from their homes at Anata on 23 January. Demolitions of Palestinian homes in the west bank are illegal and deeply unhelpful to efforts to bring a lasting peace to the middle east conflict.

I most recently raised concerns over plans to move west bank Bedouin communities during my visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 7-10 January. I visited the Bedouin community school at Khan al Ahmar to give profile to this issue and subsequently discussed it with Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon on 9 January. Our officials at the embassy in Tel Aviv regularly discuss our concerns with the Israeli authorities.

The Israeli authorities state that they are yet to finalise their plans and will consult fully with Bedouin communities before moving ahead. The UK continues to encourage the Israeli Government to carry through on this commitment, to comply fully with their obligations under international law and to ensure that any decision reached on the movement of Bedouin communities should be made with their full consent and not result in a forcible transfer.

Our officials at the British embassy in Tel Aviv are monitoring this situation closely. While they have not raised the specific issue of Anata with the Israeli authorities yet, they are planning to do so.

Yemen: Foreign Relations

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met Ali Abdullah Saleh, former President of Yemen; and what plans he has to meet President Hadi. [92539]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs last met President Saleh on 9 February 2011 during a brief official visit. I am not aware of plans by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to travel to Yemen in 2012. I look forward to meeting the new Yemeni Head of State at the soonest available opportunity. Security constrains our freedom to travel and I am not able to reveal details of my overseas trips.

HEALTH

Benzodiazepines

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 64W, on benzodiazepines, how the guidance is made available to women; and what services are available to support people who wish to cease using the product. [92575]

Mr Simon Burns: The patient information leaflet which accompanies each benzodiazepine medicine includes clear advice on stopping treatment and on use during pregnancy to supplement advice from the prescriber. For benzodiazepines indicated for long term use in the management of epilepsy, any decision to stop treatment should be taken only after discussion with a health care professional.

Guidance for prescribers is contained in the Summary of Product Characteristics. Health care professionals can also access guidance relating to the use of benzodiazepines in the British National Formulary provided free to all prescribers in the national health service.

If a woman experiences problems in stopping the medicine she may be further supported by her general practitioner or specialist as appropriate.

Disability: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that all disabled children have access to a dedicated assistant to help them take part in activities, such as trips and physical activities. [92365]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Education.

Schools and local authorities have duties, which are now requirements of the Equality Act 2010, not to discriminate against a disabled pupil regarding their education and associated services, including school trips, and to take reasonable steps to avoid such discrimination.

Government do not dictate a particular model of provision to support disabled children and their families: decisions are made locally by local authorities and the health service. The Government's approach to improving services and outcomes for disabled children is set out in their Green Paper: "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability". 20 pathfinders have been appointed to test the proposals in the Green Paper, including giving parents more control, parents being better informed about the support that is available and their rights as well as trialling personal budgets for those who want them.

Local authorities are under a duty to provide a range of short breaks, which allow parents and carers of disabled children to find time to do normal things which other families take for granted.

Drugs: Prices

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has for the use of value-based pricing for the Cancer Drugs Fund; what agreement he has reached with each devolved administration on a timetable for the adoption of value-based pricing; and if he will make a statement; [92542]

(2) what safeguards he plans to put in place together with the devolved administrations to ensure that existing standards and best practice for drugs pricing are maintained across jurisdictions after the adoption of value-based pricing. [92544]

Mr Simon Burns: The Cancer Dugs Fund (CDF) operates in England only but, when introduced, it is planned that value-based pricing (VBP) will apply United Kingdom wide.

We are working with colleagues in the devolved Administrations on our plans to introduce a system of VBP for medicines, and will continue to do so as this work progresses. The new system of VBP will be introduced from January 2014, following the end of the 2009 pharmaceutical price regulation scheme.

We want to find a way in which patients who would benefit from drugs provided through the CDF can continue to do so, at a cost that represents value to the national health service, after the CDF ends in 2014. We are considering whether it would be sensible to assess some of these drugs under the new VBP arrangements when they are introduced, but a decision on this has not yet been made.

We will ensure that there are arrangements in place to protect individual patients who are receiving treatment with drugs funded by the CDF as the end of the fund approaches.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his proposal that Public Health England should be given responsibility for all drug recovery budgets, what plans he has to confer on Public Health England a duty to reduce *(a)* reoffending and *(b)* crime rates. [92736]

Anne Milton: The Department is working closely with the Ministry of Justice, the Home Office and other partners to help manage the transition to new public health and criminal justice arrangements. This is overseen by a cross-Government Health and Criminal Justice Programme Board and an Offender Substance Misuse Board.

Subject to parliamentary approval local authorities will be responsible for commissioning drug treatment services in the new public health system. Funding for this will come from a public health ring-fenced grant. Giving local authorities responsibility for commissioning drug and alcohol prevention and recovery orientated treatment services will bring together treatment provision and the wide range of local services that help promote and sustain recovery. This will help reduce health risks and cut crime and make our society safer. These goals are reflected in the Public Health outcomes framework published on 23 January 2012 which includes indicators on completion of drug treatment, reoffending, as well as a number of related indicators. Local areas will determine how they wish to improve outcomes in these areas based on the joint assessment of local needs.

Further, Public Health England will be established as an executive agency of the Department. Its role will be to support local commissioners with expert advice, evidence and management information including outcomes and value for money data. This will help promote effective prevention and treatment services integrated with local health, crime, housing and employment agencies.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the responsibility for commissioning substance misuse treatment services people in prison and other places of prescribed detention will lie with the National Health Service Commissioning Board, under an agreement between the Secretary of State and the NHS Commissioning Board.

Family Planning

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department gives to primary care trusts on levels of expenditure on family planning services. [92969]

Anne Milton: Funding for local services is a matter for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), taking into account the needs of the local population. The amount spent by PCTs on sexual health services is not prescribed by the Department.

Fractures: Care Homes

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to produce a national standard for care homes on the prevention, treatment and care of fractures resulting from osteoporosis and falls. [91458]

Paul Burstow: The Health and Social Care Bill makes provision for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce Quality Standards that relate to social care, which would potentially include care homes. Our engagement exercise—Caring for Our Future: Shared ambitions for care and support—sought to understand people's priorities for reform to help inform the approach to be set out in the forthcoming White Paper on adult social care. Responses to the engagement in relation to quality welcomed planned work to extend NICE Quality Standards to social care, and highlighted the potential role clinical audit practice might play in driving up quality in the sector. The Government are now considering these proposals before they set out their plans in their White Paper on care and support.

Fractures: Databases

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission a real-time national audit of all non-hip fragility fractures as part of the re-tender for the National Hip Fracture Database and the national audit of falls and bone health in older people. [91457]

Paul Burstow: The re-tender for the National Hip Fracture Database and the National Audit of Falls and Bone health in Older People includes a requirement to conduct a feasibility study regarding all non-hip fragility fractures. The feasibility study will allow a decision to be made regarding the future commissioning of such a database.

Herbal Medicine

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many herbal medicinal products were under investigation by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency for being sold as food supplements on the most recent date for which information is available; when each such investigation began; when he expects each investigation to reach a judgement; and if he will make a statement; [92524]

(2) whether the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has investigated the sale of any herbal medicinal products as food supplements in Holland and Barrett stores in the last six months; and if he will make a statement; [92525]

(3) how many complaints the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has received about the sale of herbal medicinal products in Holland and Barrett stores which do not comply with the EU Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products in each of the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [92526]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) does not hold information on how many herbal medicines have been presented as food supplements. The MHRA is currently investigating complaints about 25 companies selling some 174 herbal products which may fall within the definition of a medicine. The time taken to process a complaint will depend on the complexity of the case, the number of products involved and the response from the company concerned.

Companies that are investigated by the MHRA are entitled to their privacy especially where, following investigation, no subsequent enforcement action is taken against them. The MHRA considers that it would not be in the public interest to publish the names of companies where no breach of legislation has been identified or where there is compliance with regulatory requirements; such an approach could also have legal implications. Where a case results in a final determination that a product is a medicine, this information appears on the MHRA website. The MHRA is currently considering how effective, proportionate enforcement action can best ensure that the intended benefits of the directive on traditional herbal medicinal products for consumers and for companies compliant with the legislation are achieved.

Hospitals: Inspections

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role Local Involvement Networks (LINks) and local HealthWatch organisations will play in relation to patient-led inspections; and whether LINks are involved in their planning and piloting. [92972]

Mr Simon Burns: Local Involvement Networks (LINks) are independent, as local HealthWatch (LHW) will be when they come into being, and therefore the exact role they play will depend on local decision making. However, the new inspection system will ensure that, where they wish to be involved, they have the opportunity to play a leading role.

The patient-led inspection pilots will be developed by the Department's Steering Group and will involve patients and their representatives. This includes working in collaboration with LINks who have the expertise in 'enter and view', and involving HealthWatch England and LHW as soon as they come into being. LINks and HealthWatch will play a pivotal role during planning, the pilots and delivery, to ensure the new system focus remains on what patients want.

Mental Health Services: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that a child and adolescent mental health service worker or child psychologist is attached to every school. [92362]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Education.

The Government recognise the important and valued role schools play in supporting children's mental health. We are clear that the education system needs to work effectively with the health service to identify and support children who have serious or complex mental health problems. Ultimately, what kind of support is required and where that support is delivered is a matter for local decision, based on local need. It is for health and education bodies to work together to determine when that support should be delivered directly in schools. Schools can also use their own budgets to purchase services to meet the needs of pupils, including supporting pupils' emotional and mental health. Funding for these types of support is included in the Department's Early Intervention Grant (EIG) to local authorities.

Obesity: Surgery

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS budget is for bariatric surgery. [92901]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold information on the cost to primary care trusts (PCTs) of providing patients with bariatric surgery. It is up to PCTs to commission a range of health care services for their population, based on clinical need and effectiveness.

Organs: Donors

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were added to the organ donor register in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-west and *(c)* Cumbria in each of the last five years. [92985]

Anne Milton: The information requested is in the following table:

Number of registrations on the organ donor register (ODR) in England, the North West Strategic Health Authority and Cumbria, 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2011, by year

Year of registration[1]	*England*[2]	*North-west*[2]	*Cumbria*[2]
2007	826,576	103,641	7,990
2008	905,947	116,645	8,284
2009	849,763	100,773	8,202
2010	901,224	110,655	9,162
2011	820,083	94,880	8,133
Current total[3]	15,028,160	1,884,824	143,950

[1] This is based on registrants on the ODR as at 30 January 2012 and excludes people who registered in this time period and have subsequently died or been removed from the ODR.

[2] Areas defined from the Office for National Statistics postcode datasets.

[3] The current total number of registrations on the ODR as at 30 January 2012.

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Osteoporosis: Health Services

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will advise general practitioners to use the FRAX fracture risk assessment tool in order to meet the conditions required by the Quality and Outcomes Framework osteoporosis indicators. [91456]

Paul Burstow: The prioritisation and development of potential indicators for inclusion in the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) is the responsibility of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and its independent Primary Care QOF Indicator Advisory Committee.

The current osteoporosis indicators focus on the secondary prevention of fragility fractures and do not specify how patients at risk of fragility fracture should be identified.

Pain

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his policy that chronic pain is a long-term condition that requires the preparation of care plans. [92547]

Paul Burstow: The Department recognises chronic pain as a long-term condition, either in its own right or as a component of other long-term conditions. Everyone who suffers persistent pain should have a timely assessment in order to determine the cause of the pain—if a cause can be determined—and to advise on options for treatment, including self-help. Patients with refractory chronic pain will benefit from the care planning approach, but decisions should be taken on an individual basis depending on the severity of symptoms and any co-morbidities.

Parents: Education

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress his Department has made on the national roll-out of free parenting classes for parents with children under five. [92311]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Education.

The Department announced on 18 October 2011 that a trial of universal parenting classes for mothers and fathers of children 0 to five years will run from spring 2012 in three areas (Middlesbrough, High Peak (Derbyshire), and the London borough of Camden) aimed at over 50,000 parents. The trial will test how best a commercial market in parenting classes for all parents can be established.

The aim is to stimulate the supply and demand for parenting classes by offering parents a range of classes in different formats such as face to face and online. Parents will be provided with vouchers during the trial which they can use to redeem the parenting classes.

The procurement exercise for organisations to provide parenting classes in the trial was launched on 7 November 2011 and a further procurement exercise for the local support and voucher provider role was launched on 9 December 2011. The outcome of these processes will be announced soon.

Seroxat

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 73W, on paroxetine, if he will quantify the magnitude of the small increased risks identified in the circumstances described in the Answer. [92574]

Mr Simon Burns: Observational studies suggest about two in 100 babies whose mothers take paroxetine in early pregnancy are born with a birth defect, in particular a heart-related defect. This compares with about one in 100 babies born to women who have not taken paroxetine. For an individual woman, the magnitude of the risk following exposure to paroxetine in the first trimester of pregnancy is difficult to estimate because several risk factors exist for birth defects, including smoking and other dietary and lifestyle factors.

For persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN), observational studies suggest that about five in 1,000 babies born to mothers who have taken an antidepressant of the same type as paroxetine (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors or SSRIs), particularly in late pregnancy, develop this condition. This compares to about one to two cases of PPHN in 1,000 babies born to women not exposed to SSRIs during pregnancy.

Any increase in risk to the foetus due to paroxetine is small and needs to be considered in the context of the potentially greater risk that may result from the mother's untreated depression. The product information for paroxetine, including the patient information leaflet, outlines these small risks to support discussion between health care professionals and patients.

Surgery

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were *(a)* for males and *(b)* in total for (i) hip replacement, (ii) knee replacement, (iii) coronary artery bypass graft, (iv) cochlea implant and (v) cholecystectomy procedures for patients aged (A) 15 to 39, (B) 40 to 49, (C) 50 to 54, (D) 55 to 59, (E) 60 to 64, (F) 65 to 69, (G) 70 to 74 and (H) over 75 years in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [92578]

Mr Simon Burns: The available information is shown in the following tables, which show the total number of finished consultant episodes (FCE)[1] and FCEs where the patient gender is 'male' with main operative procedure[2] as specified by patient age group for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The information provided includes activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Hip replacement

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
Patient age group	*Total FCEs*	*Male*	*Total FCEs*	*Male*	*Total FCEs*	*Male*
15-39	1,218	538	1,227	547	1,298	624
40-49	2,767	1,266	2,959	1,380	3,237	1,458
50-54	3,266	1,394	3,398	1,421	3,819	1,597
55-59	5,753	2,435.	5,655	2,331	6,166	2,662
60-64	10,202	4,272	10,091	4,243	10,998	4,658
65-69	12,785	5,056	12,630	5,068	13,370	5,399
70-74	16,198	6,180	16,297	6,144	16,523	6,172
75 and over	48,233	13,898	48,685	14,381	50,477	15,175

Knee replacement

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
Patient age group	*Total FCEs*	*Male*	*Total FCEs*	*Male*	*Total FCEs*	*Male*
15-39	244	94	221	87	182	79
40-49	1,816	765	1,641	703	1,619	676
50-54	3,233	1,320	2,937	1,180	3,103	1,319
55-59	6,539	2,690	5,751	2,440	5,932	2,473
60-64	11,650	5,334	11,113	5,086	11,455	5,227
65-69	13,626	6,232	12,974	5,919	13,572	6,204
70-74	15,361	6,686	14,557	6,432	15,171	6,496
75 and over	24,373	9,545	23,469	9,416	24,201	9,648

Coronary artery bypass graft

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
Patient age group	*Total FCEs*	*Male*	*Total FCEs*	*Male*	*Total FCEs*	*Male*
15-39	14	11	10	7	16	10
40-49	89	75	84	66	75	58
50-54	122	91	99	77	96	77
55-59	237	189	207	178	175	140
60-64	396	316	309	253	280	222
65-69	517	365	403	309	410	291
70-74	626	428	612	418	484	339
75 and over	1,280	817	1454	748	1,126	729

Cochlear implant

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
Patient age group	*Total FCEs*	*Male*	*Total FCEs*	*Male*	*Total FCEs*	*Male*
15-39	112	47	110	37	133	49
40-49	53	23	62	26	85	33
50-54	39	13	27	16	41	20
55-59	40	13	33	11	29	10
60-64	40	16	43	18	38	23
65-69	47	26	33	16	43	17
70-74	45	27	35	20	32	13
75 and over	62	34	58	28	58	31

Cholecystectomy

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
Patient age group	*Total FCEs*	*Male*	*Total FCEs*	*Male*	*Total FCEs*	*Male*
15-39	15,272	1,859	16,136	1,897	16,881	2,074
40-49	11,615	2,512	12,197	2,640	12,699	2,798
50-54	5,736	1,473	6,080	1,583	6,372	1,625
55-59	5,851	1,596	5,900	1,647	5,903	1,695
60-64	6,389	1,929	6,636	2,044	6,728	2,068
65-69	5,012	1,759	5,353	1,868	5,501	1,899
70-74	4,369	1,770	4,531	1,769	4,546	1,757
75 and over	4,930	1,949	5,101	2,097	5,103	2,063

[1] A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] The first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedures.

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median waiting time was for (i) colorectal excision, (ii) radical prostatectomy, (iii) breast excision, (iv) inguinal hernia repair and (v) abdominal aortic aneurysm aorta replacement procedures for patients aged (A) 15 to 39, (B) 40 to 49, (C) 50 to 54, (D) 55 to 59, (E) 60 to 64, (F) 65 to 69, (G) 70 to 74 and (H) over 75 years in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [92579]

Mr Simon Burns: The available information is shown in the following tables which show the mean and median time waited (days) for finished admissions episodes[1] with the main operative procedure[2] as specified by patient age group for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The information provided includes activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Information on radical prostatectomy is not available.

Colorectal excision

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
Patient age group	*Mean*	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*
15-39	42	32	46	34	44	35
40-49	37	27	38	28	38	30
50-54	32	24	35	27	37	28
55-59	32	23	33	25	35	27
60-64	27	19	28	19	27	19
65-69	27	18	28	18	27	18
70-74	30	20	29	21	30	20
75 and over	27	20	29	21	29	21

Breast excision

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
Patient age group	*Mean*	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*
15-39	42	30	44	30	45	30
40-49	26	19	28	19	27	19
50-54	23	18	25	18	22	19
55-59	22	18	24	18	22	19
60-64	21	17	22	18	20	18
65-69	21	18	22	18	20	18
70-74	20	18	22	18	21	19
75 and over	21	18	23	19	21	19

Inguinal hernia repair

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
Patient age group	*Mean*	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*
15-39	61	54	61	55	65	57
40-49	64	57	64	56	67	59
50-54	65	57	66	57	68	61
55-59	64	56	64	57	68	62
60-64	64	57	65	57	67	60
65-69	63	56	65	58	67	60
70-74	62	55	65	56	68	61
75 and over	64	55	66	57	69	62

Abdominal aortic aneurysm aorta replacement

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
Patient age group	*Mean*	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*
15-39	27	27	34	34	64	64
40-49	40	40	37	27	32	41
50-54	34	31	30	23	35	21
55-59	36	32	36	28	34	27
60-64	37	29	36	26	35	27
65-69	38	28	38	29	38	33
70-74	38	28	38	31	36	30
75 and over	36	26	38	25	37	27

[1] A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes.

Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] The first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (eg time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedures.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Radical prostatectomy is not identifiable in Hospital Episode Statistics.

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* admissions and *(b)* emergency admissions there were for (i) colorectal excision, (ii) radical prostatectomy, (iii) breast excision, (iv) inguinal hernia repair and (v) abdominal aortic aneurysm aorta replacement procedures for patients aged (A) 15 to 39,

(B) 40 to 49, (C) 50 to 54, (D) 55 to 59, (E) 60 to 64, (F) 65 to 69, (G) 70 to 74 and (H) over 75 years in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [92580]

Mr Simon Burns: The available information is shown in the tables, which show the total number of finished admissions episodes[1] (FAEs), and FAEs where the method of admission is 'Emergency'[2], where a main operative procedure[3] as identified has been carried out, by age group for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The information provided includes activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Information on Radical Prostatectomy is not available.

Colorectal Excision

	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
Patient age group	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*
15 to 39	4,829	752	5,257	777	5,769	748
40 to 49	7,384	647	8,072	722	8,910	675
50 to 54	5,876	452	6,540	454	7,538	473
55 to 59	8,265	565	8,767	577	9,995	657
60 to 64	15,120	879	17,736	855	20,969	873
65 to 69	15,604	888	18,329	912	21,720	924
70 to 74	13,522	1,055	15,104	1,027	18,007	1,059
75 and over	23,238	2,785	25,363	2,854	27,617	2,810

Breast Excision

	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
Patient age group	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*
15 to 39	9,072	27	9,169	29	8,622	28
40 to 49	10,409	39	10,666	42	11,229	22
50 to 54	6,987	24	6,996	21	7,294	9
55 to 59	6,081	30	5,729	19	5,627	12
60 to 64	7,411	33	7,566	33	7,525	22
65 to 69	6,067	25	6,306	14	6,685	13
70 to 74	3,778	17	3,757	11	4,068	12
75 and over	6,008	44	6,382	30	6,545	17

Inguinal Hernia Repair

	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
Patient age group	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*
15 to 39	10,985	390	10,081	349	9,960	345
40 to 49	9,279	208	8,994	202	9,053	207
50 to 54	5,241	153	5,109	121	5,115	124
55 to 59	6,952	182	6,408	149	6,288	180
60 to 64	9,114	267	8,745	236	8,823	273
65 to 69	8,035	247	7,814	262	8,037	289
70 to 74	7,897	346	7,626	339	7,384	324
75 and over	14,480	1,259	14,033	1,339	13,715	1,321

Abdominal aortic aneurysm aorta replacement

	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
Patient age group	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*
15 to 39	4	2	2	0	4	1
40 to 49	6	4	10	2	8	2
50 to 54	20	6	19	7	25	4
55 to 59	105	43	85	22	77	22
60 to 64	274	85	283	96	265	96
65 to 69	546	167	477	150	401	125
70 to 74	793	257	718	241	606	218
75 and over	1,447	557	1,221	499	1,040	492

[1] A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] An emergency admission is one where the admission method is recorded as one of the following codes:
21 Emergency—via Accident and Emergency (A&E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
22 Emergency—via General Practitioner (GP)
23 Emergency—via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau
24 Emergency—via consultant out-patient clinic
28 Emergency—other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department

[3] The first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedures.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* admissions and *(b)* emergency admissions there were for (i) hip replacement, (ii) knee replacement, (iii) coronary artery bypass graft, (iv) cochlea implant and (v) cholecystectomy procedures for patients aged (A) 15 to 39, (B) 40 to 49, (C) 50 to 54, (D) 55 to 59, (E) 60 to 64, (F) 65 to 69, (G) 70 to 74 and (H) over 75 years in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [92581]

Mr Simon Burns: The following tables show the total number of finished admissions episodes[1] (FAEs) and FAEs where the method of admission is 'Emergency'[2] where a main operative procedure[3] as identified has been carried out, by age group for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The information provided includes activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Hip replacement

	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
Patient age group	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*
15-39	1,199	70	1,205	52	1,283	44
40-49	2,717	209	2,892	221	3,177	194
50-54	3,199	237	3,344	290	3,748	275
55-59	5,631	508	5,509	568	6,058	447
60-64	9,936	1,170	9,840	1,082	10,755	1,097
65-69	12,465	1,708	12,318	1,662	13,022	1,744
70-74	15,666	2,915	15,641	2,965	15,929	2,771
75 and over	43,771	22,337	44,125	22,849	45,890	23,295

Knee replacement

	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
Patient age group	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*
15-39	244	1	220	1	181	3
40-49	1,807	9	1,635	12	1,611	5
50-54	3,214	12	2,930	14	3,089	12
55-59	6,502	24	5,713	25	5,918	13
60-64	11,583	31	11,056	27	11,404	41
65-69	13,549	53	12,903	30	13,503	45
70-74	15,243	57	14,473	61	15,099	63
75 and over	24,136	197	23,267	165	24,024	151

Coronary artery bypass graft

	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
Patient age group	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*
15-39	10	—	8	1	12	1
40-49	64	4	59	10	60	5
50-54	98	6	75	6	70	1
55-59	192	6	172	12	139	5
60-64	336	9	246	12	220	13
65-69	429	13	317	14	346	20
70-74	511	21	470	28	392	10
75 and over	959	29	853	42	848	34

Cochlear implant

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
Patient age group	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*
15-39	112	—	110	—	132	1
40-49	53	—	62	—	85	1
50-54	39	—	27	—	41	—
55-59	40	—	33	—	29	—
60-64	40	—	43	—	38	1
65-69	47	1	33	—	43	—
70-74	45	—	35	—	32	—
75 and over	62	1	58	—	58	—

Cholecystectomy

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*	
Patient age group	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*	*Total FAEs*	*Emergency FAEs*
15-39	14,639	1,649	15,489	1,860	16,141	2,043
40-49	11,246	878	11,774	994	12,254	1,102
50-54	5,548	380	5,860	456	6,154	512
55-59	5,635	420	5,683	428	5,686	447
60-64	6,169	435	6,386	452	6,488	510
65-69	4,803	386	5,129	386	5,263	394
70-74	4,152	335	4,307	372	4,330	411
75 and over	4,538	592	4,716	630	4,732	629

[1] A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] An emergency admission is one where the admission method is recorded as one of the following codes:
21 Emergency—via Accident and Emergency (A and E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
22 Emergency—via General Practitioner (GP)
23 Emergency—via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau
24 Emergency—via consultant out-patient clinic
28 Emergency—other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department

[3] The first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedures.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many anti social behaviour orders were issued in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Derby, *(c)*Thurrock and *(d)* Bradford in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; [92632]

(2) how many incidents of anti social behaviour were reported to the police in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Bradford, *(c)* Thurrock and *(d)* Derby in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [92660]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* These data are not available in the format requested and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

CCTV

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of people who were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted as a result of CCTV evidence in (i) Birmingham, (ii) Bradford, (iii) Derby, (iv) Thurrock and (v) Ashfield in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [92633]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* Information on the evidence leading to arrests is not held centrally.

Knives: Crime

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knife-point robberies occurred in *(a)* Ashfield constituency and *(b)* Nottinghamshire in each of the last three years; and what assessment she has made of the British Crime Survey's findings that knife-point robberies have increased by 10 per cent. in the last 12 months. [91594]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* Data for selected offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument are collected by the Home Office at police force area level only, so data are not available for Ashfield constituency. Data are provided for Nottinghamshire police force area.

In the Nottinghamshire police force area, there were 436 robberies involving a knife or sharp instrument in the 12 months ending September 2009, 382 in the 12 months ending September 2010 and 303 in the 12 months ending September 2011.

Members: Surveillance

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what safeguards her Department has put in place to ensure that hon. Members do not have their telephone conversations covertly heard by *(a)* the police, *(b)* the Serious Organised Crime Agency and *(c)* other Government agencies. [91491]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* In answer to questions in the House of Commons on 17 November 1966, the then Prime Minister, the right hon. Harold Wilson, said that he had given instructions that there was to be no tapping of the telephones of Members of Parliament and that if there were a development which required a change of policy he would make a statement in the House about it. The Prime Minister confirmed on 24 January 2011 that this policy has not changed.

Police

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to ratify in full the decisions of the Police Arbitration Tribunal on the Windsor 1 recommendations; what process she plans to follow when taking the decision on ratification of these decisions; and if she will make a statement. [92620]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), on 30 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 31-33WS.

Police: Bureaucracy

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much time warranted police officers spent on average participating in human resources procedures including disciplinary, recruitment and retirement processes in *(a)* London and *(b)* England and Wales in each year between 2002 and 2012. [92430]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 31 January 2012]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Police: Conditions of Employment

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish the Government response to the recent report of the Police Arbitration Panel on pay and conditions for the police. [92705]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 31 January 2012]:* I refer the right. hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), on 30 January 2012, *Official Report,* columns 31-33WS.

Police: ICT

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of results from the West Midlands pilot on mobile technology in policing; and if she will make a statement. [90965]

Nick Herbert: West Midlands was one of a number of forces which took part in the pilot of the Lantern mobile fingerprinting identification service. Although no force specific assessments were made, an assessment of the pilot as a whole was undertaken by the National Policing Improvement Agency. A survey of officers who took part in the pilot found that:

> the majority felt that there was an increase in the number of people they were able to identify;
>
> almost all officers felt more confident in handling situations with the public; and
>
> just over half of officers reported that the devices saved time.

The results of the pilots were used to inform a new and updated mobile fingerprint service known as MobileID.

Police: Motor Vehicles

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that local police forces put safeguards in place for suspects who have had vehicles taken away from them as a result of a police investigation. [92197]

Nick Herbert: The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and the accompanying codes of practice provide safeguards regarding police powers to seize and retain material—including vehicles—which are needed as evidence or for forensic examination.

The powers also cover the safekeeping and return of the vehicle and enable the suspect to have access to the vehicle under certain conditions, for example, to prevent evidence from being tampered with.

The use of these powers is an operational matter for Chief Police Officers.

If an individual considers that the police have not followed PACE and the Codes in their case, then they can make a complaint to the Chief Police Officer or to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). If the vehicle is damaged or the police refuse to return it then the individual can take action in court in the normal manner.

Young People: Stop and Search

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of young adults aged 18 to 24 years old were *(a)* stopped and searched, *(b)* given conditional cautions, *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder, *(d)* given a fixed penalty notice and *(e)* arrested by the police in each year since 2008. [91828]

Nick Herbert: Available information on arrests held by the Home Office relates to persons aged between 18 and 20 arrested for notifiable offences, and corresponding rates per 100,000 population in 2008-09 and 2009-10, and is provided in Table A. Data on arrests reported to the Home Office are reported in aggregate form covering specific age groups (10 to 17, 18 to 20, 21 and over) and cannot be separated further. Data for 2010-11 are scheduled to be published in April 2012.

Data on the number of stops and searches and fixed penalty notices (FPNS) cannot be provided as the Home Office does not require police forces in England and Wales to provide information on the ages of subjects searched or issued with FPNs as a part of these collections.

Data provided by the Ministry of Justice covering the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged between 18 and 24, with rates per 100,000 population, from 2008 to 2010 (latest available) in England and Wales are provided in Table B. Data for 2011 are planned for publication in May 2012.

Information on conditional cautions provided by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is taken from its case management system and covers the numbers of conditional cautions only. A breakdown of the number of young adults aged between 18 and 24 issued with conditional cautions in England and Wales since January 2008 is provided in Table C.

Table A: Persons aged 18 to 20 arrested for notifiable offences, England and Wales, 2008-09 and 2009-10

		Number and rate
	Number of persons arrested	*Number arrested per 100,000 of the population*[1]
2008-09	219,308	10,051
2009-10	208,262	9,508

[1] Based upon mid-year population estimates provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for 2008 and 2009, for persons aged 18 to 20.

Source:

Home Office

Table B: Penalty notices for disorder issued for all offences to persons aged 18 to 24, England and Wales, 2008-10[1]

		Number and rate
	Number issued	*Number issued per 100,000 of the population*[2]
2008	72,348	1,395
2009	72,388	1,386
2010	59,948	1,136

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Based upon mid-year population estimates provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for 2008 and 2009, for persons aged 18 to 24.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table C: Conditional cautions issued to 18 to 24-year-olds: England and Wales, 2008 to 2011

	Number
	Total conditional cautions issued
2008	3,872
2009	4,283
2010	3,859
2011	2,973

Note:

Includes conditional cautions issued both pre- and post-charge, This incorporates those cases where the defendant has been charged with an offence as part of the file review prior to the first court hearing, and in accordance with para 25 of the DPP's Guidance on Charging (4th Edition: January 2011), a prosecutor has determined that a conditional caution is a more appropriate way to process the charge. Data are obtained from a management information system.

Source:

Crown Prosecution Service

Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the members are of the Government's Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures review group; and to which Secretary of State it will report. [92566]

James Brokenshire: Membership of the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Review Group (TRG) includes officials from the Home Office, the police and the Security Service. Officials from other agencies such as the Crown Prosecution Service may also attend where appropriate. The TRG reports to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contribution her Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if she will make a statement. [92295]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office signed up to the Renewed Compact in 2010. Over the last year the Department has taken the following actions to ensure the Compact is being implemented:

A Director has been appointed as Compact Champion for the Department and a team has been identified to be responsible for the day to day promotion and management of Compact implementation;

We have successfully established a VCSE Stakeholder Forum with representatives of the voluntary sector to discuss issues of mutual interest including application of the Compact;

We have begun to undertake a departmental-wide mapping exercise to develop Compact awareness as well as understand funded and stakeholder relationships with the voluntary sector;

We participated in the National Audit Office's review of national Compact implementation.

My Department expects to include a statement on how the Compact is being implemented in the Home Office Business Plan for 2012-13 in the spring, and has also embedded Compact principles into our business plans in this year.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary ICT

Karl McCartney: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, who *(a)* is responsible for and *(b)* maintains the systems protecting communications within the parliamentary estate and on parliamentary IT servers; and whether any of this work is undertaken by a contractor. [92994]

John Thurso: PICT is responsible for and maintains the systems protecting communications within the parliamentary estate and on parliamentary IT servers. We do not comment on specific security arrangements.

Communications: Parliamentary Estate

Karl McCartney: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether there are any on-going warrants issued under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 under which *(a)* email communications and *(b)* hard-line or mobile telephone communications are monitored on the parliamentary estate or remotely through parliamentary estate servers. [92995]

John Thurso: We do not comment on matters of security.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Complaints: Members

Sir Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the average cost to the public purse was of processing a complaint made to IPSA's compliance officer against hon. Members in the latest period for which figures are available. [90802]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Compliance Officer for IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Peter Davis, dated 31 January 2012:

As Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking about the cost to the public purse of processing a complaint made to IPSA's Compliance Officer.

The time taken to process a complaint against an MP will be the largest factor in determining the cost. This will depend upon the nature of the complaint; whether the Compliance Officer decides to progress the complaint to a preliminary investigation and, thereafter, whether it is advanced to a substantive investigation.

Data on the time taken to conclude complaints is not currently held in a format that would enable any meaningful costs to be assessed. An average cost per complaint is, therefore, not available.

IPSA's Annual Report and Accounts for 2011-12 will include details both of expenditure in this area and also of the work undertaken by the Compliance Officer throughout the year.

Freedom of Information

Sir Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the average cost to IPSA was of processing a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in the latest period for which figures are available. [90803]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 31 January 2012:

In the absence of the Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking about the average cost of processing a Freedom of Information request.

The staff time taken to process a Freedom of Information request is the largest factor in determining the cost. The time taken in each case will depend on the nature of the request, the amount of information requested and whether exemptions will apply. Where a request is particularly complex, it may require the involvement of senior members of staff or the IPSA Board.

We do not record how much time is spent on each Freedom of Information request we receive, and as a consequence an average cost per request is not available.

Confidentiality

Sir Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if he will request IPSA to provide a secure *(a)* postal address and *(b)* e-mail address within IPSA, with a named individual for hon. and right hon. Members to submit confidential staff information. [91188]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 30 January 2012:

As Director of Operations of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking about arrangements for providing information to IPSA in a secure manner.

Post arrives at IPSA in two ways. Either the mail is delivered via Royal Mail or it is collected from the Drop Box at Portcullis House. These collections are made solely by IPSA staff.

All mail is opened, scanned and sorted in a secure locked environment with limited access. Access to this room is restricted to four members of staff and no documents are removed from this room until they are scanned and an electronic record of them is made. The only exception to this is where envelopes are marked 'personal', in which case the unopened envelope will be placed on the desk of the addressee.

E-mails addressed to 'IPSA INFO' are sorted centrally and either sent on to specific recipients or worked on by the Information team and responded as appropriate. The status of these e-mails is monitored daily to ensure that they are dealt with in a timely manner. E-mails to specific recipients are delivered directly to password protected e-mail accounts that may only be accessed by the account owner.

This arrangement provides a suitable control on the movement of e-mails and documents around the organisation and we have no plans to amend it.

Sir Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if he will request IPSA to make it its policy that letters from the Authority to hon. and right hon. Members are signed and that the name of the person signing the letter is printed with their job title. [91189]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 30 January 2012:

As Director of Operations of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking about IPSA's policy on the signing of letters to MPs.

It is our general practice to include the name and job title on all e-mails and letters sent from IPSA. There are a few exceptions to this which include the automated e-mails sent to MPs from the online expense system advising the status of claims and the weekly e-mail bulletins to MPs offices.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

9. **Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on funding arrangements for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. [92785]

Mr O'Brien: The UK is ready to increase its funding to the Global Fund subject to rapid progress with reforms. I will discuss ways to leverage funds from others in the run up to the Mid Term Review of the Replenishment including possible additional resource mobilisation opportunities.

Development Policy

11. **Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that development policy takes full account of the interests of girls and women. [92787]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Following the Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews girls and women are at the centre of everything we do. The results we will achieve are clearly set out in our document entitled 'Strategic vision for girls and women'.

Foreign Aid Programmes

12. **Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many countries to which the UK gives overseas aid have foreign aid programmes of their own. [92788]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: While it is true that India—and indeed South Africa—have aid programmes, most of it does not meet the internationally accepted definition of aid.

Global Schools Partnership Programme

13. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of his Department's global schools partnership programme. [92789]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development-funded Global School Partnerships Programme has supported over 4,000 links between schools in the UK and developing countries. In 2011 we used an independent review to assess the programme's impact on students' learning. It found a significant and positive impact on students' knowledge and attitudes to global poverty.

Democratic Republic of Congo

14. **Peter Aldous:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of governance and humanitarian issues in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [92790]

Mr O'Brien: The state is weak with limited capacity in the Democratic Republic Congo. The system lacks transparency and accountability and corruption is endemic. The humanitarian situation is one of the most enduring globally. Conflict, malnutrition and disease epidemics render the population vulnerable with millions in need of emergency assistance.

15. **Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of *(a)* human rights and *(b)* the integrity of the recent elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [92791]

Mr O'Brien: Human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo remain a serious concern. Detailed information is available in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual report on human rights.

Polling in the elections was largely peaceful with a good turnout. However, we are concerned about reports of irregularities, some serious, throughout the election process.

Horn of Africa

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of food security in the horn of Africa. [92780]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: British support has so far fed or vaccinated four million people in the horn of Africa. The international community must do more to promote food security in the longer term. Progress on this has been made in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Afghanistan: Taxation

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Afghanistan on steps to improve tax revenue levels in that country. [92301]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government of Afghanistan's ability to raise revenue is central to the financial viability of the state. The UK has been working closely with the Afghanistan Revenue Department since 2003 and helped increase revenue to £1.65 billion in 2010-11, up 26% on the previous year. Revenue collection as a proportion of GDP grew from less than 3% in 2002 to 11.2% of GDP in 2010-11, an all-time high. In addition, tax collection targets have been exceeded for large, medium and provincial taxpayers.

Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 1011W, on recruitment, how much of the £145,489.16 spent on recruitment agencies was spent on agency *(a)* fees and *(b)* staff. [92598]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a framework arrangement with two specific agency providers. A set hourly rate is paid direct to the agency provider depending on the grade and level of work required. The rate paid to the agency member of staff is subject to a contractual arrangement between the agency provider and the individual. DFID is not advised of this rate.

Work Experience

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what work experience or traineeship schemes his Department offers to minority groups. [92744]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development participates in the Whitehall summer diversity internship programme for under-represented groups, including black and ethnic minority communities and those from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. We will provide placements for three individuals on this scheme this summer.

East Africa: Droughts

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development through which *(a)* UN and *(b)* other humanitarian agencies he plans to deliver emergency aid for the food crisis in the Sahel; whether the aid is new funding; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that emergency response is integrated into a long-term resilience plan for the region. [92739]

Mr Duncan: On 22 January the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), announced a new package of lifesaving emergency assistance to help thousands of children facing severe hunger across the Sahel region of West Africa.

Negotiations are currently under way with various United Nations Organisations and non-governmental organisations as to the precise make-up of this assistance. Although it is too early to give precise programme details, it is likely that British assistance will help treat 68,000 severely malnourished children in Niger, Chad and Mali and provide animal feed and animal vaccinations to 30,000 families to keep their livestock alive.

The Department for International Development recognises the need to strengthen the resilience of the Sahel region, and is currently preparing a Sahel resilience strategy. This was one of the commitments we made in response to the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review last year.

East Africa: Overseas Aid

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments over £50,000 were made by his Department for international development work in *(a)* Sudan, *(b)* Malawi and *(c)* Zambia in 2010-11; what the name of the recipient was in each case; and what work was carried out. [92577]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Information on payments made by the Department for International Development (DFID) is freely available on our website.

This Government introduced the 'Aid Transparency Guarantee', in order to make our aid fully transparent both to taxpayers in the UK and to citizens in recipient countries. Details of every payment over the value of £25,000 made by DFID since 12 May 2010 can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/DFID-spend/

DFID now publishes details of every payment over £500 on a monthly basis.

Food Aid

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Gateshead (Ian Mearns) of 17 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 656-7W, on food aid, (1) what the seven Charter to End Extreme Hunger commitments that the Government is carrying out are; and what assessment he has made of their effectiveness; [91867]

(2) which two Charter to End Extreme Hunger commitments the Government is considering; and when he expects to have made a decision on these two commitments; [91866]

(3) which four Charter to End Extreme Hunger commitments the Government considers to be unworkable; and on what basis this conclusion was reached. [91865]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government have already made commitments and are taking action that anticipates the concerns expressed through the first, third, fourth, sixth, 11th, 12th and 13th recommendations of the charter. The Government's commitments are built upon the recommendations of the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review (HERR), which I commissioned in 2010. As part of the Government's response to the HERR, we will invite the International Development Committee to review progress against our commitments. The charter's fifth and 10th recommendations are the subject of ongoing work or trials.

The remaining recommendations were considered to be too vague, or incompatible with the Government's commitments to transparency and to maximising the value of UK aid by concentrating it in the countries where it is most needed.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92282]

Mr O'Brien: DFID is contributing to the Compact between UK Government and voluntary organisations.

DFID ensures that it consults voluntary organisations on matters that that are likely to impact on the Department's work with civil society. Examples of this include the 12 week open consultation on the design of UK Aid Match and consultation on the design of the Global Poverty Action Fund.

DFID Ministers and officials also meet regularly with a wide range of civil society groups to discuss opportunities for achieving common goals.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's budget was for aid to Yemen in each of the last three years; and how much of the budget was spent in each such year. [92538]

Mr Duncan: The following table sets out the Department for International Development's (DFID) country programme allocation, country programme expenditure and bilateral expenditure on Yemen over the last three financial years. Country programme expenditure is made against yearly country programme allocations. Bilateral expenditure includes other DFID programme expenditure benefitting Yemen but not directly administered by the Yemen country programme—for example a contribution of £3.8 million by the Global Funds Department to the education Fast Track Initiative in 2010-11. Figures for the latter are taken from 'Statistics in Development 2011', which is published on the DFID website.

£ million

Financial year	*DFID Yemen country programme allocation*	*DFID Yemen country programme expenditure*	*DFID bilateral expenditure on Yemen*
2010-11	50.0	47.3	51.1
2009-10	35.0	25.3	29.8
2008-09	20.0	19.1	19.2

JUSTICE

Aarhus Convention

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps he has taken to comply with the requirements of the Aarhus convention in relation to civil litigation costs. [92562]

Mr Djanogly: The convention requires that costs not be 'prohibitively expensive'. On 19 October the Government launched a consultation on proposals to limit the liability of the claimant to pay the defendant's costs to £5,000 and also limit the liability of the defendant to pay the claimant's costs to £30,000. The consultation closed on 18 January 2012 and the Government intend to publish their response, including proposals on the way forward shortly.

Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report,* columns 266-7W, on recruitment, how much of the £15,698,302 spent on recruitment agencies was spent on agency *(a)* fees and *(b)* staff. [92601]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Payments made to recruitment agencies comprise the sourced labour costs, the agency administration costs and a sum for VAT. The value of the administration costs is normally a percentage of the total fee (excluding VAT) paid by the Ministry and it varies from agency to agency. The determination of the administration cost is subject to commercial negotiations with the recruitment agencies. The administration fee and labour cost are amalgamated into a single unit cost and recorded on the Ministry's systems in this way thus enabling the reporting of a total figure inclusive of VAT as provided in the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report,* columns 266-7W. To arrive at a breakdown of monies paid to the sourced labour, the administrative fees and the VAT would require a manual examination of each invoice submitted by a recruitment agency and this would incur a disproportionate cost.

Work Experience

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what work experience or traineeship schemes his Department offers to minority groups. [92748]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice does not offer work experience or work placements to minority groups directly, and does not record centrally the ethnicity of persons undertaking unpaid work experience. To establish this information will require an examination of locally held records and this will incur a disproportionate cost.

Legal Aid: Personal Injury

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to the capacity of people with asbestosis to seek legal redress under his proposals for reform of legal aid. [92979]

Mr Djanogly: Legal aid for most personal injury claims (other than clinical negligence) was abolished by the Access to Justice Act 1999 because these claims could be funded by a Conditional Fee Agreement ("no win, no fee"). Under both the Access to Justice Act 1999, and the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill that is before Parliament, there remains a safety net for legal aid to be granted in individual cases. Funding will continue to be available under clause 9 of the Bill where failure to provide legal aid will breach the applicant's right to legal aid under the European Convention on Human Rights or any other enforceable right to legal aid under EU law.

Legal Aid: Asil Nadir

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much legal aid has been provided to Asil Nadir in the last 18 months. [92984]

Mr Djanogly: The case against Asil Nadir is ongoing. It would be wrong of me to either comment on or to disclose specific details concerning the costs of any case while it is still ongoing.

Prisoners

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of civil prisoners imprisoned in England and Wales; and whether he has made an estimate of the number of civil prisoners held in *(a)* open and *(b)* closed prisons. [92545]

Mr Blunt: As at 31 December 2011 there were 32 civil prisoners, all of whom were being held in closed conditions.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Human Rights

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training and advice has been provided to members of independent monitoring boards of prisons on their duties under the UN Optional Protocol for the Prevention of Torture. [92097]

Mr Blunt: The UN Optional Protocol requires the National Preventative Mechanism to have certain powers including the regular examination of the treatment of people deprived of their liberty in places of detention. As Independent Monitoring Boards have the necessary statutory powers to unrestricted access to prisons and places of detention and the power to make unannounced visits they are a designated part of the United Kingdom's National Preventative Mechanism.

New members of an Independent Monitoring Board attend a foundation course which explains their powers and how they are to be exercised. If requested, advice and material relating to the Optional Protocol for the Prevention of Torture will be provided by the secretariat to the Independent Monitoring Boards.

Prisons

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what new prison capacity he expects to become available at each establishment in each month of 2012. [92996]

Mr Blunt: The prison capacity programme is ongoing and will deliver additional prison capacity in 2012 at two new establishments: HMP Thameside in South East London (900 places from March) and HMP Oakwood in Staffordshire (1,605 places from April).

Options for increasing the number of prison places at existing establishments, including through new-build accommodation, existing accommodation being returned to use, an increase in multiple occupancy of prison cells and other measures are kept under ongoing review and activated when necessary. Decisions on increasing capacity will depend on the required number of places necessary to accommodate all those committed to custody by the courts.

Prisons: Private Sector

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on future tendering for the running of prisons; and if he will make a statement. [92628]

Mr Blunt: The Government's policy on tendering for the running of prisons flows from our ambition for encouraging greater involvement of the private and voluntary sectors in the rehabilitation of offenders in order to cut re-offending and improve outcomes and efficiency. Competition will provide the opportunity to implement policy priorities, such as working prisons and payment by results.

The Competition Strategy for Offender Services, published in July last year outlines the principles that will determine the use of competition in offender services and sets out the custodial programme for the first year. This includes competitions for the management of eight public sector prisons and the re-competition of HMP Wolds.

We will publish an annual update of our competition programme in the summer. This will include both existing commitments and all planned new opportunities expected to be launched within twelve months of the date of the publication of the update.

Prostitution: Convictions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for *(a)* soliciting for the purpose of prostitution in a public place, *(b)* keeping a brothel and *(c)* control of prostitution for offences committed in (i) London and (ii) West Yorkshire in each of the last three years. [92895]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty of offences related to prostitution at all courts in the Greater London and West Yorkshire police force areas for the years 2008 to 2010 (latest currently available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Defendants found guilty of offences related to prostitution at all courts in the Greater London[1] and West Yorkshire police force areas, 2008 to 2010[2, 3, 4]

Police force area/offence	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Greater London			
Kerb crawling	165	117	79
Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place	114	65	92
Keeping a brothel	11	15	18
Control of prostitution	16	4	9
West Yorkshire			
Kerb crawling	6	1	1
Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place	13	8	5
Keeping a brothel	5	8	4
Control of prostitution	1	—	—

[1] Comprises the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Kerb crawling:
Sexual Offences Act 1985, S.1
kerb crawling
Sexual Offences Act 1985, S.2
Persistent soliciting of person or persons for the purpose of prostitution
Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place:
Sexual Offences Act 1985, S.1
Common prostitute loitering or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution
Sexual Offences Act 2003, S.51A
Solicit another for the purpose of obtaining their sexual services as a prostitute in a street/public place
Keeping a brothel:
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.33A as added by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.55
Keeping a brothel for prostitution
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.33
Keeping a brothel
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.34
Letting premises for use as a brothel
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.35
Tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.36
Tenant permitting premises to be used for prostitution
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.33 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 1967
Keeping a brothel for homosexual practices
Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.34
Letting premises for use as a brothel for homosexual practices
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.35 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.53
Tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel for homosexual practices
Similar provisions in Local Acts
Other offences against keeping a brothel
Control of prostitution:
Sexual Offences Act 2001 s.53
Controlling prostitution for gain
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Repossessions

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will estimate the number of home repossessions in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough in (i) 2012 and (ii) 2013; [92669]

(2) how many homes were repossessed by mortgage lenders in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [92672]

Mr Djanogly: There were 53,045 county court claims which led to orders being made for the repossession of property by mortgage lenders in England in 2010, the latest year for which figures are available. Of these, 5,915 related to properties in the West Midlands, and 295 in Dudley borough. The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on the total numbers of repossessions of property (including where keys are handed back voluntarily).

These figures represent the numbers of claims leading to orders being made. This is more accurate than the number of orders, removing the double-counting of instances where a single claim leads to more than one order. It is also a more meaningful measure of the number of homeowners who are subject to court repossession actions.

These figures do not indicate how many properties have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order, such as where borrowers hand the keys back to the lender. Also, not all possession orders result in repossession. Many orders are suspended and if the borrower complies with the repayment arrangements set out in the suspended order the property will not be repossessed.

Claims leading to orders figures for all regions and local authority areas in England and Wales in 2011 will be published on 9 February 2012. This statistical bulletin will be available from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/civil-justice/mortgage-possession.htm

The Council of Mortgage Lenders in December 2011 released forecasts of 37,000 repossessions in the United Kingdom in 2011 (down from an initial 40,000) and 45,000 in 2012. They have not yet released a forecast for 2013 and do not publish regional estimates.

Youth Custody: Advocacy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure a statutory right to advocacy for every child in custody. [92368]

Mr Blunt: Young people aged under 18 years of age may be placed in three different types of secure accommodation; local authority secure children's homes, secure training centres or under 18 young offenders institutions.

The national minimum standards, underpinned by the Children's Homes Regulations 2001, set out requirements for enabling children in secure children's homes to have access to advocacy, and secure children's homes have visiting independent persons' services contracted by the relevant local authority.

The Secure Training Centre Rules 1998 make provision for the appointment of Independent Persons to visit young people in secure training centres and hear their representations. The Youth Justice Board commissions two children's charities to fulfil this function within secure training centres and they operate in line with the National Standards for Youth Advocacy.

The Youth Justice Board has also extended the advocacy service commissioned for secure training centres into under 18 young offenders institutions. The service is delivered by children's charities and operates in line with the National Standards for Youth Advocacy.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Political Parties: Finance

Michael Fallon: To ask the Leader of the House whether he has considered changing the annual indexation of Short money to each Opposition party from the retail prices index to the consumer prices index. [92273]

Sir George Young: No.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 100W, on recruitment, how much of the £13,522.82 spent on recruitment agencies was spent on agency *(a)* fees and *(b)* staff. [92602]

Mr Paterson: The Department is charged an hourly rate for these staff. There is no separate fee, although the agency may include a fee element in the hourly rate it levies.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Complaints

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many service complaints the Transport Commission has received about bus and coach operators in Vehicle and Operator Services Agency area 3, including *(a)* Go North East, *(b)* Stagecoach Cumbria, *(c)* Stagecoach North East, *(d)* Snaiths Coaches, *(e)* Scarlet Band Motor Services, *(f)* Redby Travel, *(g)* Kingsley Coaches, *(h)* Henry Cooper, *(i)* First Choice Travel, *(j)* Classic Coaches, *(k)* Arriva North East and *(l)* A-line Coaches in each of the last five years. [91682]

Mike Penning: The number of complaints held on operators is not available as the data are commercially in-confidence. Complaints are not recorded by area so to find out the total number for area 3 would invoke disproportionate cost.

Buses: Testing

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many *(a)* PSV414 advisory notices and *(b)* PG9s were issued by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency to bus and coach operators in area 3, including (i) Go North East, (ii) Stagecoach Cumbria, (iii) Stagecoach North East, (iv) Snaiths Coaches, (v) Scarlet Band Motor Services, (vi) Redby Travel, (vii) Kingsley Coaches, (viii) Henry Cooper, (ix) First Choice Travel, (x) Classic Coaches, (xi) Arriva North East and (xii) A-line Coaches in each of the last five years; [91687]

(2) how many prohibitions were found by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency operating area 3, involving bus and coach operators in the north-east in each of the last five years. [91688]

Mike Penning: Prohibition and advisory note results are not available by operator as the data are commercially in-confidence.

PG9s are another name for prohibitions.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency's north-east area figures for bus and coach operators (PSV's) are in the following table:

	Roadworthiness			*Drivers hours*	
	Checks	*Prohibitions*	*Advisory notices*	*Checks*	*Prohibition*
2006-07	479	131	[1]10	315	0
2007-08	468	104	[1]94	306	29
2008-09	804	174	408	327	34
2009-10	604	119	327	397	60
2010-11	663	116	378	427	59

[1] Advisory notice in 2006-07 and 2008 were recorded using a different method and should not be compared with later years.

Departmental Contracts

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent contracts her Department has entered into with Northgate Information Solutions Limited and its subsidiaries; and what the value was of each such contract. [91004]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 20 January 2012]:* The Department has not entered into any recent contracts with Northgate Information Solutions Ltd or its subsidiaries.

Electric Vehicles: Finance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for the future funding of the Plug-In Car Grant. [89557]

Norman Baker: The 2010 spending review confirmed funding for consumer incentives for ultra low emission vehicles for the lifetime of this parliament and that we will monitor the most effective way to deliver this investment.

Last month, I announced that the scheme is being extended to electric vans, with a potential discount of £8,000, or up to 20% of the total value of the vehicle.

EU Law

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which EU regulations her Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if she will make a statement. [90716]

Norman Baker: I have taken this question to mean which of the EU directives my Department is directly involved in have not been implemented. EU regulations have direct effect and so do not require transposition, although it may be necessary to introduce some related measures, for example to ensure that there are effective remedies and penalties.

EU law provides that directives become part of EU law once they are adopted. The EU directives requiring transposition which my Department is directly involved in implementing are:

Directive 2003/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 April 2003 amending Council Directive 91/671/EEC on the approximation of laws of the member states relating to compulsory use of safety belts in vehicles of less than 3.5 tonnes (one discrete aspect remaining);

Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on driving licences;

Directive 2008/57/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 on the interoperability of the rail system within the Community;

Commission Directive 2008/65/EEC of 27 June 2008 amending Directive 91/439/EEC on driving licences;

Directive 2008/110/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 amending Directive 2004/49/EC on safety of the Community's railways (Railway Safety Directive);

Council Directive 2009/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2009 implementing the Agreement concluded by the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) on the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, and amending Directive 1999/63/EC;

Directive 2009/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector and amending Council Directive 1999/35/EC and Directive 2002/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council;

Directive 2009/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the insurance of shipowners for maritime claims;

Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC;

Directive 2009/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 amending Directive 98/70/EC as regards the specification of petrol, diesel and gas oil and introducing a mechanism to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and amending Council Directive 1999/32/EC as regards the specification of fuel used by inland waterway vessels and repealing Directive 93/12/EEC;

Directive 2009/40/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers;

Commission Directive 2009/149/EC of 27 November 2009 amending Directive 2004/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards Common Safety Indicators and common methods to calculate accident costs;

Commission Directive 2010/36/EU of 1 June 2010 amending Directive 2009/45/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on safety rules and standards for passenger ships;

Commission Directive 2010/47/EU of 5 July 2010 adapting to technical progress Directive 2000/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the technical roadside inspection of the roadworthiness of commercial vehicles circulating in the Community;

Directive 2010/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 on the framework for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems in the field of road transport and for interfaces with other modes of transport;

Directive 2010/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from ports of the member states and repealing Directive 2002/6/EC;

Commission Directive 2011/18/EU of 1 March 2011 amending Annexes II, V and VI to Directive 2008/57/EC of the Parliament and of the Council on the interoperability of the rail system within the Community;

Commission Directive 2011/63/EU of 1 June 2011 amending, for the purposes of its adaptation to technical progress, Directive 98/70/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels;

Commission Directive 2011/75/EU of 2 September 2011 amending Directive 96/98/EC on marine equipment; and

Directive 2011/72/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2011 amending Directive 2000/25/EC as regards the provision for tractors placed on the market under the flexibility scheme.

High Speed 2

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which consultants are being or have been used on the High Speed 2 project; and what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* cost to the public purse was of their services in each case. [91918]

Justine Greening: The following table provides information on the consultants used by both HS2 Ltd and the Department for Transport since the inception of HS2 Ltd in 2009 to present. It also gives information on their remit and associated costs.

Company	*Remit*	*Costs*
ALOGIT	Technical services	23,184.00
DbyD: Consultation Institute	Consultation	23,760.00
Arup	Engineering and technical services	7,155,687.35
Atkins	Economic services	2,053,812.96
Bircham Dyson Bell	Legal services	117,013.52
Bombardier: Min Headway Eval	Engineering and technical services	24,000.00
Booz and Company	Environmental and economic services	3,550,744.07
Campbell Associates	Environmental services	37,473.26
CB Richard Ellis	Property services	280,606.59
CCH Wolters Kluwer (UK) LTD	Taxation services	504.00
Davis Langdon	Cost and risk services	26,569.60
DG Consultant	Transport services	17,500.00
Senior Ecologist—ELM Environment	Environmental services	10,027.74
Energy Strategy	Engineering services	2,160.00
Ernst & Young LLP	Financial services	410,888.90
Eversheds LLP	Legal services	233,499.89
Hay Group Management Limited	HR services	53,987.36
Transport Studies Unit	Transport services	48,135.60
Landmark Chambers	Legal services	13,800.00
Mott Macdonald	Engineering services	4,412,654.42
MSG	Engineering services	154,904.91
MVA	Economic services	3,276,661.48
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	Environmental/ transport services	7,632.51
Oliver Wyman Consulting Limited	Strategy consultancy	107,497.73
Paul Jenkins Associates Ltd	Engineering services	22,696.18
Rand Europe	Economic services	19,986.80
Reg Harman Consultancy	Environmental services	783.30
Rowsell Wright	Procurement services	257,976.00
URS/Scott Wilson	Economic services	14,652.00
Stoneywood Consultants	Organisation/ procurement services	59,001.59
Systra	Operational services	82,500.00
Temple Ltd	Environmental services	3,209,557.60
Thornton Springer	Taxation/payroll advice	1,842.00
UKPNS Traction	Environmental services	111,430.95

Motorways: Accidents

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the risks of proposed changes to the Incident and Support Unit (ISU) service in respect of *(a)* the public and *(b)* employees of the ISU. [90597]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency is responsible for operating and maintaining the strategic road network (SRN). When reviewing the specification of incident response the agency has ensured that its primary objective is the safety of road users, Highways Agency traffic officers, road workers and emergency service personnel.

Currently, managing agent contract (MAC) service providers are contractually required to attend all incidents on the SRN within a specified time and incident clear up times are not specified. In over 60% of cases incidents are resolved by Highways Agency traffic officers or emergency service personnel and therefore do not require service provider involvement. The new incident response requirement mandates service providers to clear up incidents within set times. The revised requirement is based on current clear up times and hence the outcome for road users should be similar in most cases.

The development of the incident response requirements included an approach which identified hazards and evaluated and mitigated associated risks.

Traffic management will continue to be provided in accordance with current guidance (DFT, Traffic Signs Manual, chapter 8—roadworks and temporary situations) in a manner which maintains a safe working environment.

Northern Rail: Expenditure

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much grant funding her Department provided to the holding company operating the Northern Rail franchise in each year of its operation. [92239]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* Subsidy and premium payments in respect of all rail franchises are published annually by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in National Rail Trends (NRT). Copies of NRT are available in the Library of the House and on the ORR's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Queen Elizabeth II Bridge: Closures

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to take steps to reduce the instances of closure of the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge between Dartford and Thurrock during adverse weather conditions. [92144]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency routinely reviews its operational procedures to ensure they remain appropriate. Following the recent closures of the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge I have asked the Highways Agency to look into whether total closure of the bridge is the only viable option, when the risk is limited to high-sided vehicles, or whether the bridge could in future remain open to cars only.

Railways: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to improve rail infrastructure connectivity between urban areas in the East of England; and if she will make a statement. [92643]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 31 January 2012]:* The Government have committed to deliver the Thameslink programme which will improve rail connectivity between several urban areas in the East of England. As a result of its policy to let longer franchises of up to 15-years, the Government expects that the future Greater Anglia and Essex Thames-side franchises will deliver further improvements in rail connectivity in the East of England.

Railways: South West

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date she approved the application for a change to the ticket validity on the route from Bristol to Hereford via Bromsgrove submitted by the Association of Train Operating Companies. [92403]

Norman Baker: The Association of Train Operating Companies notified us of several changes to the National Routeing Guide in December relating to journeys made via Bromsgrove. No formal request was made by ATOC for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport to these changes as no valid routeing permissions were withdrawn. Separate changes were made by the train operator to the time of day restrictions on the regulated off peak return tickets priced by Cross Country Trains in the Midlands and other regions. These alterations were all made within the prescribed limits set out in the franchise agreement of every train operator, and consequently no consent from the Secretary of State is required in such circumstances.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she considered introducing separate targets for biodiesel and ethanol in the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation. [91455]

Norman Baker: The Department received representations on a number of issues related to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) during consultations on the Renewable Energy Directive (RED). These included suggestions that the RTFO should distinguish between bioethanol and biodiesel, arguing that if it did, this might provide a mechanism to drive equal demand for both products. The suggestion was taken into account through the consultation exercise.

It is important to recognise that the RTFO is a mechanism designed to reduce carbon emissions and promote the supply of sustainable biofuels. The RTFO has now been amended to implement the transport elements of the RED. This requires reporting against mandatory sustainability criteria and allows biofuel which is produced from wastes, residues, non-food cellulosic material and ligno-cellulosic material feedstocks to be eligible for double rewards. However, the current RTFO is not a mechanism to direct the market towards a specific sustainable biofuel product or method of production.

TREASURY

Executives: Pay

Guy Opperman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps is he taking to restrict excessive executive pay. [91231]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

As my hon. Friend knows, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), announced a number of proposals to the House on 23 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 23-25. These included measures for greater transparency on pay, more shareholder power—binding votes on annual re-election of directors, binding votes on sections of the remuneration report which contains future proposed policy and other proposals to address the market failures that exist in the executive pay setting process. Further details can be found in the written ministerial statement, available in the Libraries of the House.

HM Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what security checks staff employed by Sitel and Teleperformance at HM Revenue and Customs contact centres are subject to; [92389]

(2) what steps HM Revenue and Customs is taking to establish whether staff employed by Sitel and Teleperformance at its contact centres have undergone appropriate security checks. [92390]

Mr Gauke: HM Government's Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) is the pre-employment control check for all civil servants, members of the armed forces, and private sector employees working on Government contracts, it is a check of identity, employment history, nationality and immigration status, and criminal record (unspent convictions).

HMRC have required—as a contractual condition—that both service providers comply with the BPSS in respect of all persons employed or engaged in the provision of the services under the contract. In addition to the BPSS, HMRC have also required a criminal record check of spent convictions and a credit reference check be undertaken by the providers. These additional checks over and above the BPSS, mirror those currently made of all people seeking direct employment with HMRC.

It is a further contractual condition that the service provider warrants that the checks specified in the BPSS have been carried out and that the results of those checks are satisfactory. HMRC undertakes robust audit and assurance activities to satisfy itself that the required checks have been completed and the required standards met.

A copy of the BPSS is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/baseline-personnel-security-standard.pdf

M6 Toll

David Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration his Department has given to underwriting the re-financing of the M6 Toll Company in order to provide a direct link from the M54 to the M6 north and the M6 toll road south. [90265]

Danny Alexander: The Department for Transport set out its plans for the strategic roads programme in the document "Investment in Highways Transport Schemes" which accompanied the statement to the House by the then Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79WS. The M54/M6/M6 Toll Link road scheme, was identified among 18 'future schemes' for potential construction in future spending review periods and among four schemes to be reviewed by the Highways Agency to ensure that the design of the scheme is the best possible.

The Department is presently considering how these future schemes should be developed during the current spending review period.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how many years HM Revenue and Customs is required to keep records of *(a)* tax and *(b)* national insurance contributions paid by an individual. [92554]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has a standard records retention policy of six years plus the current year for direct taxes and indirect taxes information. There will be exceptions due to business need; for example a personal tax record may become part of a record held in relation to a tribunal hearing. In such cases, a different retention policy may come into play because the business need requires it. Once this business need has passed the record returns to its normal retention policy

There is no legislative time limit for keeping records of national insurance contributions (NICs) paid by an individual. Since the introduction of the National Insurance Recording System 2 (now called the National Insurance contributions and PAYE Service (NPS)) the information is retained indefinitely because there is a business need for contributory benefit purposes.

Social Services: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Health, *(b)* Communities and Local Government and *(c)* Work and Pensions on the potential for reform of the funding of social care to result in savings to the public purse across Government. [92772]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 31 January 2012]:* HM Treasury Ministers have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues. On the funding of social care, the Government welcomed the work of the Commission on Funding of Care and Support chaired by Andrew Dilnot, and committed to consider the recommendations carefully.

The Government have been engaging with the care sector to develop and refine their priorities and plans for action, bearing in mind the financial context. They will publish a White Paper on wider social care issues including a progress report on funding reform in the spring.

Tax Allowances

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what revenue accrued to the Exchequer in respect of *(a)* inheritance tax in each year since 1998 and *(b)* capital transfer tax between 1982 and 1986 from each (i) region, (ii) constituency and (iii) local authority area; [92988]

(2) what relief was claimed in respect of *(a)* business relief from inheritance tax in each year since 1996, *(b)* forgiveness of capital gains tax at death in each of the last five years and *(c)* spouse or civil partner exemptions on gifts paid over a lifetime in each of the last five years in each (i) region, (ii) constituency and (iii) local authority area. [92989]

Mr Gauke: Data on inheritance tax receipts since 2001-02 is published in the National Statistics HMRC receipts table available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/tax-receipts-and-taxpayers.pdf

Receipts from inheritance tax for earlier years are published in archived Table 1.2 Annual Receipts of former Inland Revenue Taxes available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/1_2_v2_dec05.pdf

Regional inheritance tax receipts for 2008-09 are published in Table 12.10, available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/inheritance_tax/table12-10.pdf

Based on the same table, regional receipts for 2007-08 in £ million were:

	Tax £ million
United Kingdom	3,072
England	2,729
North East	60
North West	188
Yorkshire and the Humber	150
East Midlands	141
West Midlands	165
East of England	297
London	603
South East	744
South West	381
Wales	86
Scotland	220
Northern Ireland	38

Data on inheritance tax receipts by region for earlier years are not available.

Data on the numbers of taxpayers by constituency and by Local Administrative Unit Level 1 (which coincide with District/Unitary Authorities in England and Wales) are published in Tables 12.12 and 12.11 respectively which are available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/inheritance_tax/table12-12.pdf

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/inheritance_tax/table12-11.pdf

Data on inheritance tax receipts at this level are not available.

Receipts from capital transfer tax for the period 1982 to 1986 are published in archived Table 1.2 Annual Receipts of former Inland Revenue Taxes available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/1_2_v2_decQ5.xfs

A breakdown of these receipts by geographic area is not available.

The amounts of assets which are relieved from inheritance tax due to business property relief for estates over the inheritance tax threshold for 2004-05 to 2008-09 are published in National Statistics table 12.2 available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/inheritance_tax/table12-2.xls

Based on this table the amount of assets relieved since 1996-97 are given in the following table.

	Relief set against assets £ million
1996-97	150
1997-98	129
1998-99	177
1999-2000	353
2000-01	183
2001-02	240
2002-03	332
2003-04	227
2004-05	252
2005-06	295
2006-07	341
2007-08	460
2008-09	409

An estimate of the cost of the exemption for capital gains tax accrued but unrealised at death is published by HMRC in Table 1.5 Main Tax Expenditures and Structural Reliefs available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.xls

Estimates of the historical costs of this relief are not available.

The information on spouse or civil partner relief on lifetime gifts is not available as these gifts do not need to be recorded on the inheritance tax return.

Data on business relief, forgiveness of capital gains tax at death and spouse or civil partner exemptions on gifts paid over a lifetime by region, constituency and local authority area is not available.

Taxation: Sports

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people have paid tax on testimonial matches in each year since 2000; [92924]

(2) what revenue accrued to the Exchequer from testimonial matches in each year since 2000; [92925]

(3) how many successful appeals against the payment of tax on testimonial matches there were in each year since 2000. [92926]

Mr Gauke: There is no requirement for the parties involved in a testimonial match to individually report payments related to an event beyond their normal taxpayer obligations and HMRC does not hold separate data on testimonials. Any such payments would be considered in the course of a review of a taxpayer's affairs and HMRC is unable to disclose such details. The tax treatment of the proceeds from sporting testimonials and similar events will depend on the facts of a given case.

VAT: Scotland

Mr Davidson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses were registered for value added tax in *(a)* Glasgow South West constituency, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Scotland in each year since 2000. [92729]

Mr Gauke: Between 2000 and 2008, the number of businesses registered for value added tax at the start of the year is shown in the following table:

	Glasgow South West	*Glasgow*	*Scotland*
2000	800	12,380	125,465
2001	835	12,485	126,535
2002	865	12,595	127,145
2003	875	12,540	128,035
2004	900	12,625	129,930
2005	925	12,795	132,070
2006	960	12,995	134,290
2007	1,000	13,270	136,915
2008	1,040	13,745	141,895

These figures came from the report 'Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations', published by The Department for Businesses Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in November 2008. This report has now been discontinued. An extended series covering the last three years could be produced only at disproportionate costs.

WALES

Departmental Expenditure: Alcoholic Drinks

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on *(a)* wine, *(b)* other alcoholic refreshments and *(c)* bottled water since May 2010. [92645]

Mr David Jones: Since May 2010, the Wales Office has spent £18 on bottled water. There have been no purchases made on wine or other alcoholic refreshments.

Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 98W, on employment agencies, how much of the £11,219.02 spent on recruitment agencies was spent on agency *(a)* fees and *(b)* staff. [92597]

Mr David Jones: Of the £11,219.02 spent on agency staff, £673.14 (6%) is paid in agency fees.

Departmental Travel Costs

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 31WS, on cost of ministerial cars, whether her Department has any other arrangements for ministerial travel; and how much her Department has spent on *(a)* private hire vehicles and *(b)* taxis for each Minister since May 2010. [92817]

Mr David Jones: The Department has spent £22,351 on private hire vehicles, and £4,401 on taxis since May 2010. Private hire vehicles are sometimes used for ministerial visits in Wales, replacing a Jaguar procured prior to May 2010. Dispensing with an official car and driver in Wales has delivered an annual saving of £33,493.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92818]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has not agreed any contracts with private hire vehicle or taxi companies since May 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Free School Meals

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to implement cashless payments for all recipients of free school meals. [92312]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Education.

The implementation of cashless payments for all recipients of free school meals is a matter for individual schools to decide. The cost of free school meals are met by local authorities and schools.

Most cashless catering systems are used by secondary schools. In 2009, the School Food Trust produced "The Independent Review of Cashless Catering Systems":

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/school-cooks-caterers/resources/an-independent-review-of-cashless-catering-systems

Evidence gathered from secondary schools indicated that half the schools surveyed were already operating a cashless system. The report found that cashless catering reduced queues, enabled parents to monitor their children's eating habits, and reduced stigma/bullying.

Working Tax Credit

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his planned reforms of working tax credit, what steps he plans to take to ensure that couples with children who worked under 24 hours a week, were in receipt of working tax credit and who are unable to increase their working hours do not fall into poverty. [91540]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Treasury.

Couples with children will continue to qualify for working tax credit where at least one member of a couple works at least 16 hours per week and that person is eligible for the working tax credit disability element or is aged 60 or over. They will also qualify if one person works at least 16 hours a week and the other partner is incapacitated, an in-patient in hospital or in prison.

HMRC are not planning to make any transitional arrangements or provide additional services for couples with children who may lose entitlement to working tax credit as a result of the change to the working hours conditions in April 2012.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 2 February 2012

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Attorney-General which EU *(a)* directives, *(b)* regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting the Law Officers' Departments require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89701]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments do not have any EU directives, regulations or other legislation that require transposition into UK law.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Post Office Network

18. **Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made on securing the future of the post office network. [93016]

Mr Davey: My written statement of 24 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 8-12WS, set out recent progress to secure the future of the Post Office network, which is underpinned by £1.34 billion of Government funding to maintain a network of at least 11,500 branches, and investment to modernise thousands of branches.

Pub Company Industry

19. **Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take in response to the motion passed by the House on 12 January 2012 on regulation of the pub company industry. [93017]

Mr Davey: The Government note the result of the debate on 12 January 2012 and acknowledge the strong parliamentary interest in this area.

The tough, self-regulatory reforms we have announced will bring about real change for lessees and tenants across the country.

UK Competitive Advantage

20. **Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the sectors in which the UK has a competitive advantage. [93018]

Greg Clark: As part of the Growth Review and ongoing work within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and United Kingdom Trade and Investment the Government have examined a range of evidence on where the UK's competitive advantage lies.

For example, analysis of trade data indicates the UK has a comparative advantage in a range of knowledge intensive service sectors such as finance, business services and communications, as well as high tech sectors such as aerospace, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Within this there are also areas of particular expertise within broader sectors. For example, within advanced manufacturing, the UK has a disproportionately large share of the global market for jet engines and turbines.

Apprentices

21. **Mr Virendra Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to support small and medium-sized businesses to take on apprentices. [93019]

Mr Hayes: We are taking radical steps to make apprenticeships more attractive by simplifying the processes for employers, cutting out unnecessary paperwork and bringing in up to 40,000 financial incentive payments of £1,500 to support small businesses taking on their first young apprentice.

Student Places

22. **Pat Glass:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what allocation of student numbers he proposes for institutions which have submitted bids to his Department for additional places under the core and margin model. [93021]

Mr Willetts: Institutions will receive formal notification of their provisional allocations of core and margin places, subject to any appeals, from the Funding Council this week. I can inform the House that:

At least 143 further education colleges received allocations of at least 9,547 places.

As a result, at least 60 further education colleges will have a direct funding relationship with HEFCE for the first time.

35 higher education institutions received allocations of at least 9,303 places.

Our reforms offer choice and value for money for students.

Royal Mail: Temporary Staff

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with Royal Mail's management on the management of Angard. [93225]

Mr Davey: Operational matters, such as the recruitment of temporary staff, are the responsibility of management at Royal Mail. The Government do not play a role in these issues.

Clearly, the problems experienced by some seasonal workers are deeply regrettable. I have raised this matter with Royal Mail and have been assured that Royal Mail management are continuing to work very hard to rectify any outstanding issues. In addition, I understand that the company has been reviewing the issues that arose this Christmas with a view to ensuring that there is no repeat in future.

Apprentices: Agriculture

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many farm apprenticeships there were in each county in each of the last five years. [92977]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 1 February 2012]:* I have placed data in the Libraries of the House showing the number of apprenticeship programme starts in the agriculture, horticulture and animal care sector subject area by local authority, 2006/07 to 2010/11, the latest academic years for which final data are available.

Information on the number of apprenticeship programme starts is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 January 2012:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts by geographic breakdown and sector subject areas are available in supplementary tables to the SFR:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_supplementary_tables/Apprenticeship_sfr_supplementary_tables/

Banks: Regulation

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which teams in his Department had responsibility for the Project Merlin agreement with the banks. [93206]

Mr Prisk: No Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) officials were directly involved in the 'Project Merlin' negotiations with representatives of the banking industry. However, colleagues from BIS's Business Environment and Enterprise Directorates provided advice to Ministers when requested, related to the Project Merlin negotiations.

Basic Skills

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions have taken place between his Department and the Department for Education to ensure that students on vocational courses and in apprenticeships receive appropriate literacy and numeracy support; and if he will make a statement. [92400]

Mr Hayes: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), recognises the value of English and mathematics within vocational courses and apprenticeships. All apprentices who have not yet achieved a level 1 qualification in literacy/English or numeracy/mathematics are required to take an appropriate qualification or qualifications as part of their apprenticeship programme. Training providers are funded to support apprentices and other learners to achieve qualifications in English and mathematics.

I have a joint portfolio for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education. Following the Woolf Review recommendations, officials from the two Departments have had a number of discussions to ensure that policy is consistent. To coincide with the entitlement for all 16 to 19-year-olds, I announced in December that training providers should support apprentices towards the achievement of a level 2 qualification in English and mathematics.

I am conscious of the need to ensure that the quality of apprenticeship provision continues to improve and I have announced that all apprenticeships should entail a rigorous period of learning and the practice of new skills. If standards are sufficiently stretching and expectations of competency high, I believe this will extend over at least 12 months. This will be the minimum expectation for apprenticeships for under 19-year-olds from August 2012.

Departmental Travel Costs

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92854]

Mr Davey: Yes, the Department has agreed a contract with Addison Lee using the DWP framework contract. This became effective from January 2011.

Easter

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring into force the provision contained in the Easter Act 1928 to fix the date of Easter. [92883]

Mr Davey: The Easter Act 1928 would set the date for Easter to fall between 9 and 15 April each year. The Easter Act 1928 remains on the Statute Book, but has not been brought into force. To do so would require an Order in Council, with the approval of both Houses of Parliament. The Act also requires that, before the Order is made,

> "regard shall be had to any opinion officially expressed by any Church or other Christian Body".

There is no indication that the Churches are keen to move to a fixed Easter.

Farepak

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to support Farepak customers; and if he will make a statement. [93020]

Mr Davey: Farepak is clearly no ordinary insolvency, with numerous creditors and complex actions to recover monies. The Government cannot intervene in an insolvency nor direct the liquidators in their work—only the court has the power to do so. An application was made by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), for disqualification orders against the directors of Farepak.

Higher Education: Applications

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications had been submitted by residents of *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* Middlesbrough local authority, *(c)* the borough of Redcar and Cleveland, *(d)* the Tees Valley and *(e)* the north-east in the 2011-12 admissions cycle by 15 January 2012; and how many such applications had been submitted on the same date in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [93141]

Mr Willetts: The information, provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), and showing all the constituencies in the Tees Valley, is shown in the following table:

All applicants to UCAS by the main 15 January deadline, by parliamentary constituency/region[1]

	Application cycle	
Constituency:	*2010-11*[2]	*2011-12*[3]
Darlington	665	614
Hartlepool	796	665
Middlesbrough	652	660
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	700	646
Redcar	659	584
Stockton North	662	568
Stockton South	920	814
The Tees Valley	5,054	4,551
The North East	19,026	16,887

[1] Parliamentary constituency has been identified using the home postcode of the applicant, irrespective of their declared area of permanent residence.

[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.

[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

Investment: Glasgow

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage private sector investment in industry in Glasgow South West constituency; and if he will make a statement. [91674]

Mr Prisk: In encouraging investment, HMG have for example, focussed on: creating the most competitive tax system in the G20 by cutting the main rate of corporation tax from 28% to 26% in April and by 2014 it will reach 23%—the lowest rate in the G7 and fifth lowest in the G20; making the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business by focussing on reducing red tape, encouraging high street banks to extend £190 billion of new credit to businesses in 2011 through 'Project Merlin'; continuing the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) until 2014-15, providing up to £600 million of additional lending to around 6,000 small and medium-sized enterprises in 2011-12, and subject to demand, over £2 billion in total over the next four years.

As regional development is a devolved matter, encouraging investment in specific projects in the Glasgow South West constituency is a matter for the Scottish Executive.

Renewable Energy: Industry

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the value of low carbon industries to the economy; and what estimate he has made of such industries' contribution to *(a)* gross domestic product, *(b)* growth and *(c)* employment. [93125]

Mr Prisk: HM Government have made no estimates of the value of low carbon industries or their contribution to gross domestic product, growth and employment.

According to independent research published by K-Matrix (Knowledge Matrix), and commissioned by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, turnover in the Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector in 2009/10 was estimated at around £116.8 billion and employment was estimated at approximately 914,000. These estimates include all activity across the wider supply chain that can be attributed to the Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector. The Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Service Sector can be split broadly into three sub-sectors: traditional environmental goods, renewable energy, and low carbon activities.

K-Matrix turnover growth forecasts from 2010/11 to 2015/16 for the Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector are in the following table.

Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services

	Growth forecasts (percentage)[1]
2010/11	4.8
2011/12	5.0
2012/13	5.1
2013/14	5.3
2014/15	5.4
2015/16	5.6

[1] The growth forecasts provided are based on aggregated forecasts for turnover.

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

K-Matrix (2011) makes no estimates of the contribution to GDP (Gross Domestic Product), provided by low carbon industries in the UK.

Stem Cells

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of stem cell trials; and for which health categories such trials were carried out in the last year for which figures are available. [92344]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research.

The MRC currently supports a number of clinical trials involving stem cells. These include studies relating to vision, bone repair, liver disease and autoimmune disease. Total spend relating to the four studies listed as follows was £750,000 in 2010-11:

"To evaluate the effectiveness of cultured human limbal epithelium for the treatment of limbal stem cell deficiency", Mr F Figuerido, University of Newcastle: (G0900879): Corneal repair/Vision.

"Autologous cell therapy of fracture nonunion—cell phenotype as a predictor of outcome", Professor M Marsh, UCL: (G0900880): Bone repair/Musculoskeletal.

"Autologous macrophage therapy promotes stem cell-mediated liver regeneration: a novel therapy for end-stage liver disease", Professor S Forbes, University of Edinburgh: (G1000868): Liver disease/Oral and Gastrointestinal.

In addition to the clinical trials identified, the MRC also supports research in related areas, including a trial of processes which stimulate endogenous stem cell repair:

"Revival of autochthonous adrenocortical stem cells in autoimmune Addison's disease", Professor S Pearce, University of Newcastle: (G0900001): Metabolic and Endocrine.

The Technology Strategy Board has funded one stem cell clinical trial in the last 2 years: the Phase II clinical trial to examine Allogeneic Fibroblast therapy for Epidermolysis Bullosa.

The spend for this project in 2010-11 was £334,088.

The Department of Health funds the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). Estimated spend in 2010-11 on research infrastructure support for stem cell trials through NIHR biomedical research centres and units is £1.3 million. This funding supported trials in a wide range of health categories including: cancer; cardiovascular; infection; injuries and accidents; metabolic and endocrine; neurological; oral and gastrointestinal. Data for expenditure by health category cannot be fully disaggregated from total estimated investment.

In addition, the NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) is currently hosting four stem cell trials that are recruiting patients. These trials are in the following health categories: cancer; inflammatory and immune system; oral and gastrointestinal. Data for spend on stem cell trials through the CRN cannot be disaggregated from total CRN expenditure.

Students: Finance

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of planned expenditure on student maintenance grants in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* 2011-12 values in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [92944]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 1 February 2012]:* Department estimates of expenditure on student maintenance grants between 2011-12 and 2015-16, consistent with the impact assessment published alongside the 2011 higher education White Paper, are as follows:

Maintenance grants	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Cash (£ million)	1,300	1,350'	1,450	1,500
2011-12 prices (£ million)	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,400

Student support funding and departmental budgets beyond 2015 are subject to the next spending review.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the Resource Accounting Budget charge on student loans for new students from 2012; and what assumptions this estimate makes about the value of the average *(a)* tuition fee and *(b)* maintenance loan. [92980]

Mr Willetts: The Department's current estimate for the Resource Accounting Budget (RAB) charge for loans issued to full-time students under the new system from 2012/13 is around 30%. The estimate assumes an average tuition fee loan of £7,500 and an average maintenance loan of £4,100 in 2012/13.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to publish a revised Student Loan Repayment Ready Reckoner which will take account of the changes to student loan repayment forecasts described in his Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11. [92981]

Mr Willetts: We are not currently planning to publish a revised version of the November 2010 Student Loan Repayment Ready Reckoner, which was published to support the debate on the emerging proposals following the Browne review.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the effect on the Resource Accounting Budget charge on student loans made to *(a)* current students and *(b)* new students from 2012 from changes in assumptions and modelling of student loan repayments described in his Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11. [92982]

Mr Willetts: The Department's annual report sets out a number of changes to the assumptions and modelling of student loan repayments that were made in 2010-11. The two key changes were:

(i) to adjust the methodology to use the latest Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) short term forecasts for RPI and average earnings growth,

(ii) to provide for the impact of the lower interest charge to borrowers as a result of the low Bank of England base rate.

.The Resource Accounting Budget (RAB) charge for loans issued under the current system in 2010-11 increased from 28% to 33% due to the above changes and the estimate for 2011-12 increased by a similar amount. For full-time students entering higher education under the new system, our current estimate of the RAB charge is around 30%. A more precise figure will be determined by any further changes to modelling and assumptions that may be required, and by information on the take-up of loans and amount borrowed by students as this becomes available during academic year 2012/13.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92292]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) signed up to the renewed Compact published in December 2010.

The Department's Further Education (FE) and Skills Directorate has a nominated member of its senior management team as the third sector lead who is also a member of the BIS Big Society Programme Board. Similarly, the Skills Funding Agency (a partner organisation of BIS) has a senior responsible officer (SRO) for civil society organisations.

BIS recognises and values the role that the third sector can play across all parts of the FE and skills system in the successful delivery of learning and skills, particularly in supporting those furthest away from learning and employment.

FE and Skills within BIS works widely with the third sector, particularly through a highly consultative dialogue with the Third Sector National Learning Alliance (TSNLA) to ensure that third sector interests are appropriately taken into account in a systematic way.

In addition to regular bilateral and trilateral meetings with BIS FE and Skills, and the Skills Funding Agency, there is membership and direct representation on all relevant BIS, Skills Funding Agency and joint Skills Funding Agency/YPLA advisory groups. This working dialogue continues all year round to help shape our understanding, implementation and evaluation of policy and guidance and its impact on the sector.

In addition:

The Skills Funding Agency and the TSNLA have established a protocol, which provides a framework for joint working between the Skills Funding Agency and the wider voluntary sector.

BIS is commissioning research from the Learning and Skills Improvement Service to identify what barriers stand in the way of achieving Government's ambitions for the third sector to play its full role in both learning and skills and in building the Big Society.

Supported by TSNLA the Learning and Skills Improvement Service is now working closely with and opening up their services to voluntary sector providers.

In the consumer voluntary sector, BIS sponsors both Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland—the umbrella bodies for the Citizens Advice service across England and Wales and in Scotland. It provides core grant in aid funding to both these charities under Section 274 of the Enterprise Act. Our funding enables those bodies to provide essential central services to their customers, the network of Citizens Advice Bureaux (IT, information, training of staff and volunteers, management services). In return this enables the service to feed back to central Government real time data on the issues facing people on a wide number of social policy issues.

UK Export Finance

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what applications have been received from *(a)* exporters and *(b)* investors to use UK Export Finance products in 2011-12. [93066]

Mr Davey: In the 2011-12 financial year to date, there have been 110 applications from exporters and none from investors.

CABINET OFFICE

Big Society Bank

Michael Ellis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on the implementation of the Big Society Bank. [93504]

Mr Hurd: We are making excellent progress in establishing Big Society Capital group (formerly referred to as the "Big Society Bank"). In December we received State Aid clearance from the European Commission and we are moving swiftly through the FSA authorisation process.

During the process of establishing Big Society Capital (BSC), the interim Investment Committee has been making the kinds of investments in intermediaries that we expect BSC to make. To date it has announced in principle investments of £3.5 million.

Big Society Capital is on track to be open for business by spring of this year.

Civil Servants

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his policy is on the payment of civil servants for their attendance at networking events; whether any civil servants have received such payments; and if he will instigate an investigation into any such payments. [93062]

Mr Hurd: The Civil Service Code is clear that civil servants must not accept gifts or hospitality or receive other benefits from anyone which might reasonably be seen to compromise their personal judgment or integrity. I am not aware of cases of civil servants personally receiving payments from external organisations for their attendance at networking events, but any such issues would be handled by individual Departments.

Departmental Travel Costs

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92824]

Mr Hurd: Since May 2010 the Cabinet Office has agreed one contract for the provision of private hire vehicles. This contract is with Enterprise Rent-A-Car UK Ltd. Cabinet Office has not agreed any other contracts with private hire vehicles or taxi companies.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [87969]

Robert Neill: Departmental records show no expenditure with recruitment agencies between September and December 2011.

Derelict Land

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the amount of previously developed land suitable for housing development in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each local planning authority area in each of the last 10 years. [87675]

Robert Neill: Estimates for the amount of previously developed land suitable for housing development in England, the regions and each local planning authority for 2003-09 inclusive are given in a table that has been deposited in the Library of the House. However, these estimates include private residential gardens which until 2010 were covered by the definition of previously-developed land. In June 2010 Ministers announced changes to PPS3, excluding private residential gardens from the definition.

The information is taken from the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land. The figures are as reported by local authorities and make no allowance for missing or incomplete data.

Housing: Armed Forces

Sir Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial support his Department is providing to local authorities of garrison towns to ensure that there is sufficient quality housing available to soldiers made redundant as a result of implementation of the Strategic Defence Security Review; what steps he is taking to mitigate the potential effects for those on social housing waiting lists; and if he will make a statement. [93227]

Grant Shapps: I am determined to help current and former members of the armed forces gain the housing they deserve. Last year I held a Military Covenant Housing summit to discuss how we could ensure that housing was a priority for people who returned from active service for this country.

Among the various measures being taken, we are giving service personnel top priority for Government-funded home ownership schemes, including FirstBuy, and providing disabled facilities grant funding so that home adaptations can enable disabled ex-service personnel to live independently.

Our housing strategy includes determined and radical measures to help everyone get the home they need. On 1 February I informed the House of progress, including work towards identifying land for 100,000 new homes, and details of the NewBuy guarantee scheme.

We are also consulting on plans to change the law so that former personnel with urgent housing needs are always given high priority for social housing. Additionally, we are consulting on new statutory social allocations guidance for local councils, setting out how their allocation schemes can give priority to current or ex-service personnel, including through the use of local preference criteria and local lettings policies. The guidance also reiterates local authorities' responsibility for addressing the housing needs of all residents and encourages them to make use of the existing flexibilities within the allocation legislation to ensure that social homes go to people who need and deserve them the most.

I recently wrote to all MPs summarising the various measures that we are introducing to ensure that serving and ex-service personnel receive top priority for housing help.

Local Government: Property

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he has issued guidance to local authorities on the disposal of vacant and disused local authority-owned properties. [92051]

Andrew Stunell: The Department has not issued guidance to local authorities on the disposal of their vacant and disused properties as these are matters for local decision. But we of course encourage local authorities to promote regeneration and development when undertaking disposals.

If a local authority wishes to dispose of land not held for housing purposes at less than best consideration for a scheme that will contribute to the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of an area, they may do so provided that they obtain the Secretary of State's consent. The Local Government Act 1972, General Disposal Consent 2003, contained in ODPM Circular 06/2003 enables local authorities to make such disposals, provided the undervalue does not exceed £2 million. If the proposed disposal was not covered by the general consent the local authority would have to apply to the Secretary of State for a specific disposal consent.

Land held for housing purposes is subject to a separate consent regime. We have just finished seeking views on our proposal that local authorities should not require specific consent to dispose of vacant land or vacant properties at market value. The Government hope to publish their response to this consultation soon. We have not however issued guidance on local authorities' housing disposal strategies.

We are funding the Asset Transfer Unit to promote best practice across England and provide advice and expertise to local authorities and communities on matters relating to asset transfer to community ownership and management. The Asset Transfer Unit also managed the recently completed Advancing Assets for Communities demonstration programme which has supported the development of local asset transfer strategies, policies and procedures aimed at communities taking over local authority assets, by providing tailored support to 92 local authority/community partnerships.

The new community rights contained in the Localism Act will give communities the opportunities to influence development in their areas, bid to buy local assets that are important to them and bid to run local services differently and better. We are currently procuring for an expert delivery agent(s) to deliver a three-year programme to support communities that want to take up these rights. The Community Right to Reclaim Land also enables communities to get underused public property back in use.

Local Government: Voluntary Organisations

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of expenditure by each local authority *(a)* overall and *(b)* per head of population on grants to voluntary organisations in each of the last 10 years. [92909]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold this information for all local authorities. The new local government transparency code requires councils to publish details of grants to the voluntary sector, as well as contracts and tenders over £500.

Non-domestic Rates

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to exempting renewable energy sources when assessing the business rate level for commercial properties. [93306]

Robert Neill: A temporary exemption from rating is available for certain items of micro generation equipment. The exemption applies up to the next revaluation after the equipment has been installed. Therefore, microgeneration plant and machinery, including micro wind turbines and small-scale solar or photovoltaic cells, installed now will not pay rates until the next revaluation due to come into force on 1 April 2015.

We have no plans to widen this exemption to other types of renewable technology but from 1 April 2012 local authorities will have a general power to offer discounts to ratepayers as they see fit.

Social Housing

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to provide new social rented housing in *(a)* South Lakeland, *(b)* Cumbria and *(c)* England. [93063]

Andrew Stunell: Through the new affordable homes programme and commitments from previous programmes, the Homes and Communities Agency currently expects to deliver 148 affordable homes in South Lakeland and 1,196 affordable homes in Cumbria between April 2011 and April 2015. These figures may change subject to signing remaining contracts with providers.

Overall, with our total investment of £4.5 billion, we expect to provide up to 170,000 new affordable homes between 2011 and 2015, compared to 150,000 originally estimated.

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the desirability of setting a time limit for Government responses to proposals submitted under the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007; [92763]

(2) when he expects his Department to publish its response to the consultation on regulation under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007; [92764]

(3) how many responses were received to his Department's consultation on regulation under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007; [92765]

(4) when he plans to bring forward proposals for regulations under the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (Amendment) Act 2010; [92766]

(5) what steps he is taking to establish the right for parish and town councils to submit proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [92900]

Greg Clark: The Government are considering the scope of the regulations under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 following the consultation exercise conducted last year. We are aiming to make the regulations shortly. A summary of responses will be published in due course.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband Delivery UK: Consultants

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Broadband Delivery UK spent on consultants in 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of such spending in 2011-12. [92877]

Mr Vaizey: In 2010-11 Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) spent £673,000 on consultants. Spend on consultants for the whole of the year 2011-12 is expected to be approximately £4 million.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many KPMG contractors or consultants worked for Broadband Delivery UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [92878]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 31 January 2012]:* Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) currently has 12 KPMG consultants working on the Rural Broadband Programme and three working on the Mobile Mast Programme.

Broadband Delivery UK: Local Government

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many local authorities attended a Broadband Delivery UK local authority engagement meeting in the last year; and which local authorities in each such case. [92879]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 31 January 2012]:* Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) has organised six local authority events between July 2011 and January 2012, at which there were a total of 357 local authority attendees. A breakdown of this information is set out in the following table:

Date of event	*Local authority attendees*
July 2011	80
September 2011	32
October 2011	65
November 2011	57
December 2011	54
January 2012	69
Total	357

A list of local authorities that were represented at each event is shown in the following table, except for the first event in July 2011. We can confirm there were 60 attendees at this event, but no data are available on the breakdown of local authorities representatives that were present.

BDUK local authority events:

	Local authority
September 2011	Bath and North East Somerset
	Buckinghamshire
	Calderdale
	Cambridgeshire
	Central Bedfordshire
	Cheshire East

BDUK local authority events:

	Local authority
	Derby
	Derbyshire
	Dorset
	Durham
	East Riding
	Essex
	Hampshire
	Hertfordshire
	Kent
	Kirklees
	Knowsley
	Leicestershire
	Lincolnshire
	Manchester
	Milton Keynes
	Norfolk
	North Lincolnshire
	Northamptonshire
	Northumberland
	Nottinghamshire
	Oxfordshire
	Peterborough
	Reading
	Shropshire
	South Cambridgeshire
	South Gloucestershire
	Stafford
	Staffordshire
	Suffolk
	Tees Valley
	Warwickshire
	West Berkshire
	West Sussex
	Wiltshire
	Worcestershire
October 2011	Bedford
	Calderdale
	Cambridgeshire
	Central Bedfordshire
	Cheshire East
	Cheshire West
	Coventry
	Cumbria
	Darlington
	Derby
	Derbyshire
	Durham
	East Riding
	Essex
	Halton
	Hampshire
	Herefordshire
	Hertfordshire
	Kent
	Kirklees
	Leeds
	Leicestershire
	Lincolnshire
	Manchester
	North Lincolnshire
	North Yorkshire
	Northamptonshire
	Northumberland
	Nottinghamshire
	Oxfordshire
	Rutland
	Shropshire
	South Gloucestershire
	Suffolk
	Surrey
	Tees Valley
	Warrington
	Warwickshire
	West Sussex
	Worcestershire
November 2011	Basingstoke
	Berkshire
	Birmingham
	Central Bedfordshire
	Chelmsford
	Cheshire East
	Cheshire West
	Derby
	Derbyshire
	Devon
	East Riding
	East Sussex
	Gloucestershire
	Hampshire
	Herefordshire
	Hertfordshire
	Huntingdonshire
	Kent
	Kirklees
	Leicestershire
	Leicestershire and Rutland Community Council
	Leicestershire County Council
	Lincolnshire
	Manchester
	North East Lincolnshire
	North Lincolnshire
	North Yorkshire
	Northamptonshire

BDUK local authority events:

	Local authority
	Northumberland
	Oxfordshire
	Rutland
	South Gloucestershire
	Shropshire
	Somerset
	Staffordshire
	Suffolk
	Surrey County Council
	Warwickshire
	West Sussex
	Wiltshire
	Worcestershire
December 2011	Bedford
	Birmingham
	Cambridgeshire
	Central Bedfordshire
	Cheshire
	Cheshire East
	Colchester
	Derbyshire
	Dorset
	Durham
	East Sussex
	Hampshire
	Hertfordshire
	Kent
	Kirklees
	Leicestershire
	Lincolnshire
	Manchester
	North Lincolnshire
	Norfolk
	Northamptonshire
	Northumberland
	Nottinghamshire
	Oxfordshire
	Rutland
	South Cambridgeshire
	South Gloucestershire
	Scottish Enterprise
	Shropshire
	Somerset
	Staffordshire
	Suffolk
	Warwickshire
	Wiltshire
	Worcestershire
January 2012	Bedford
	Cambridgeshire
	Central Bedfordshire
	Dorset
	Durham
	East Sussex
	Hertfordshire
	Kent
	Leeds
	Leicestershire
	Lincolnshire
	North Lincolnshire
	Northamptonshire
	Northumberland
	Nottinghamshire
	Oxfordshire
	Staffordshire
	Suffolk
	Surrey
	Warwickshire
	Worcestershire

Video Games

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the UK's competitive advantage in the video games sector. [93001]

Mr Vaizey: The UK games industry is the largest in Europe. Trade association Tiga's estimate for 2010 found the UK has some 9,000 highly-skilled games developers working in 278 games studios. This strength is further underpinned by the fact that most global games publishers have chosen to locate their European corporate headquarters in the UK, including Activision, Sony Computer Entertainment and Disney Interactive. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) latest Creative Industries Estimate, published in December 2011, indicated that the UK's digital and entertainment media and software/electronic publishing sectors represented £400 million and £560 million gross value added (GVA) respectively in 2009.

The "NextGen" review of games industry skills highlighted several areas where the UK is world class including particular centres of excellence in higher education games courses at universities in Dundee, Bournemouth and Brighton.

The Government have already undertaken steps to support business sectors right across the economy. This includes reducing our main rate of corporation tax to 23% by 2014—making it the lowest rate in the G7 and the fifth lowest in the G20—increasing the scope and generosity of the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and Venture Capital Trust (VCT) schemes, and acting to minimise the regulatory burdens on small businesses.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Sir Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers based at Merville Barracks, Colchester Garrison, by battalion or other unit were issued with notice of compulsory redundancy in *(a)* September, *(b)* October, *(c)* November and *(d)* December 2011; how many were issued with notices during January 2012; and how many he expects to be issued with notices between February and July 2012 inclusive. [93229]

Mr Robathan: A total of 13 personnel based at Merville Barracks, Colchester Garrison were selected for redundancy under tranche one of the redundancy scheme in September 2011. The 13 personnel are split across the following units: HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade; HQ Colchester Garrison; Equipment Care Inspection Team Colchester; 13 Air Assault Support Regiment Royal Logistic Corps; 7 Para Royal Horse Artillery and 16 Medical Regiment. The number of personnel selected at each unit is sufficiently small that National Statistics rounding conventions require it to be categorized as between one and five to prevent the inadvertent identification of individuals.

There were no compulsory redundancy notices issued in October 2011, November 2011, December 2011 or January 2012. Tranche two of the armed forces redundancy programme was launched on 17 January 2012 and the outcome will not be known until June of this year. It is therefore too early to say at this stage how many notices will be issued between February and July 2012.

Departmental Expenditure: Alcoholic Drinks

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies have spent on (i) wine, (ii) other alcoholic refreshments and (iii) bottled water since May 2010. [92650]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not hold financial information in a form that allows us to identify expenditure on wine and alcohol separately from other expenditure and therefore this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The provision of wine and other alcoholic refreshments at public expense is authorised only in exceptional circumstances and must be modest and appropriate in nature.

Bottled water for service and civilian personnel at UK Defence establishments and permanent bases overseas is provided through multi-activity contracts with commercial partners and is not separately identified. In line with Government policy on sustainable procurement, however, we avoid providing bottled water where drinkable tap water is available.

For Armed Forces personnel not covered by these arrangements and those serving on operations and overseas exercises there is a Single Food Supply contract. Expenditure for bottled water incurred under this contract between 1 May 2010 and 31 December 2011 was £4.7 million.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 646W, on military aircraft: helicopters, when he expects to publish the Rotary Wing Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [92527]

Peter Luff: The previous Government's Rotary Wing Strategy was outlined to Parliament in December 2009. Following the strategic defence and security review, we commissioned a review of the Rotary Wing Strategy to ensure that it was up to date and would effectively deliver Future Force 2020. This was known as the Defence Rotary Wing Capability Study.

The Defence Rotary Wing Capability Study reported to the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff in November 2011. The Vice-Chief asked for some further work to be done before the Study is finalized, and this work is currently in progress. Any major changes will be announced to Parliament in the usual way.

RAF Northolt

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department will publish its plans for the future use of RAF Northolt. [92540]

Peter Luff: No decision has been made to change the use of RAF Northolt, although as with all Ministry of Defence assets we continue to scrutinise defence expenditure to ensure we get the best return for the taxpayer.

Turkey: Military Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on the deployment of planes in Turkey in the last two months; and if he will make a statement. [92225]

Nick Harvey: There have been no such discussions.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to bring forward proposals to increase the staffing budgets of hon. Members under his proposals to create fewer and larger constituencies from 2015. [93068]

Mr Harper: The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) is responsible for determining and administering the expenses scheme for Members. It will be for IPSA to consider whether any changes are necessary as a result of the boundary review which will lead to fewer, more equally sized constituencies.

EDUCATION

Free School Meals

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were *(a)* registered to receive free school meals and *(b)* eligible to register, in the most recent period for which figures are available. [92459]

Mr Gibb: Information is not collected centrally on how many pupils are eligible for free school meals but do not claim.

The available information on the number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals as at January 2011 is shown in the table.

Maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools, and pupil referral units[1,2,3,4]: Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5,6,7] January 2011, England

	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5,6]	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5,6]*
Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1,2]	743,255	19.2
State-funded secondary schools[1,3]	450,275	15.9
Special schools[4]	28,830	36.5
Pupil referral units	4,745	34.6
Total[7]	1,227,110	18.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. [2] Includes primary academies. [3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies. [4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools; excludes general hospital schools. [5] Includes pupils who are sole or dual main registrations. Includes boarders. In pupil referral units includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges. [6] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15 (age as at 31 August). [7] Includes maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools, and pupil referral units. Excludes pupils in alternative provision as full and part time status is not collected. *Note:* Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5. *Source:* School Census.

Free Schools: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 287W, on free schools: finance, if he will set a date on which the budget allocation for free schools for 2011-12 will be finalised. [92810]

Mr Gibb: The full funding allocation for free schools for 2011-12 is yet to be finalised and will depend, for example, on the final capital cost for each school.

Revenue funding allocated to each of the 24 open free schools for the academic year 2011/12 is set out in my answer of 20 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1218W.

Annual revenue funding for free schools is equivalent to that received by maintained schools and academies in the same local authority area. Guidance on the methodology used to calculate revenue funding for free schools can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/freeschools/a0073853/advice-on-free-school-revenue-funding-201112

GCSE

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of candidates for *(a)* each tiered GCSE subject and *(b)* tiered GCSE subjects in total entered for examinations set by (i) Edexcel, (ii) WJEC, (iii) OCA, (iv) AQA and (v) all examination boards at (A) foundation and (B) higher level were awarded each grade in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10. [91767]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold information on the examination tier for which individual candidates were entered.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will reform the national curriculum to include talks related to health advocacy and cancer awareness in personal social health and economic education lessons. [92767]

Mr Gibb: The current personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education non-statutory framework includes the importance of healthy lifestyles. It provides opportunities for pupils to discuss health issues that teachers identify as being relevant to them. This could include cancer awareness and health advocacy. Many schools also use external organisations to provide young people with information about cancer including how to seek professional advice.

PSHE is not part of the National Curriculum which is designed to reflect the body of essential knowledge in key subjects. The Government are therefore reviewing the National Curriculum to give schools the freedom and space they need to teach a curriculum that engages their pupils.

We are also reviewing PSHE education to identify the core body of knowledge that pupils need and to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching. We will publish our proposals for public consultation later this year.

Science: GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many secondary school pupils were entered only for the Single Science Award GCSE and no other science subjects in each of the last 10 years. [89456]

Mr Gibb: The information requested for the years 2008 to 2011 is given in the following table; other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Number of secondary school pupils entered only for Single Science Award GCSE and no other science subjects. Years: 2008-11. Coverage: England

	Number of pupils
2008	80,543
2009	72,664
2010	58,317
2011	42,082

Notes:
1. Single science is taken to mean "Core Science" only and no other science award.
2. Data for 2008-10 are final, 2011 is revised.
3. Figures for 2011 include pupils in Alternative Provision, earlier years do not.
4. Figures do not take into account discounting where qualification content may overlap.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many schools with a specialism in science did not enter any pupils for GCSEs in *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* physics, *(c)* biology and *(d)* all three separate sciences in the last three years; [89457]

(2) in how many mainstream maintained schools no pupil was entered for three separate sciences at GCSE in the most recent academic year for which figures are available. [89513]

Mr Gibb: Following the announcement on 20 October 2010 regarding the specialist schools programme, by the Secretary of State for Education, the right hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), we removed the bureaucratic burden of schools designating or re-designating as specialist. From 1 April 2011, schools were no longer required to inform DFE of changes or additions to their specialism. Therefore we only hold information on the specialism of schools in 2010 and earlier. The information requested is shown in the following table:

Number of schools with a specialism in science[1] not entering pupils for GCSES in chemistry, physics, biology and all three separate sciences (combined). Years: 2008-10 (Final). Coverage: England

	(a) Chemistry	*(b) Physics*	*(c) Biology*	*(d) All three separate sciences*
2008	120	120	110	123
2009	97	98	91	99
2010	27	27	26	27

[1] As reported in the Secondary School Performance Tables in each year. Schools may have more than one specialism.

There were 550 mainstream maintained schools in which no pupils were entered for each of the three separate sciences in the 2010/11 academic year.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were entered for GCSEs in the three separate sciences in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [89458]

Mr Gibb: The number of pupils that were entered for GCSEs in the three separate sciences in 1997 and 2011 is given as follows.

Pupils (thousand)

	Number of pupils[1] entered for GCSEs[2] in:		
	Biological sciences	*Chemistry*	*Physics*
1997	36.8	35.2	34.6
2011[3]	133.7	132.0	131.1

[1] In 1997, this was based on pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year while in 2011 it was based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

[2] For each subject, only one attempt is counted—that which achieved the highest grade. This is including attempts by these pupils in previous academic years.

[3] Figures for 2011 include pupils in Alternative Provision, earlier years do not.

Source:

1997 Statistical Volume 'Public Examinations GCSE/GNVQ and GCE in England' and Statistical First Release 'GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2010/11 (Revised)' available at the following link: http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001056/index.shtml

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils were entered for three separate sciences at GCSE in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2001. [89514]

Mr Gibb: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 93W, which contains figures for chemistry and physics. The following table gives figures on the same basis for biological sciences in the years requested. Figures have been based on pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year.

Number and percentage of pupils entering GCSE biological sciences by school type. Years: 1997, 2001 (final). Coverage: England

Biological sciences	*Number of pupils entering GCSE*		*Percentage of pupils entering GCSE*	
School type	*1997*	*2001*	*1997*	*2001*
Comprehensive	13,330	16,955	2.9	3.4
Selective	5,640	6,818	27.7	32.5
Independent	17,537	16,429	41.9	37.3

Source:

Secondary School and College Performance Tables.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 January 2012 from the headteacher of Twynham School on anomalies and inconsistencies in the treatment of science GCSE in Table 4.1.25 in the Raise Online performance tool. [91524]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* We replied to this letter on 26 January 2012.

Secondary Education: Literacy

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what measures are in place to ensure that secondary school pupils with literacy difficulties are identified early and receive adequate support; and if he will make a statement. [92401]

Mr Gibb: Primary schools transfer information about each pupil's educational attainment, as well as about any special educational needs, to the pupil's secondary school. It is the responsibility of secondary schools to assess the needs of all pupils when they arrive and to provide them with the support they need to progress.

Teachers: Suicide

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the number of teachers who committed suicide in each year for which figures are available. [92993]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not collected centrally.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential carbon dioxide savings resulting from the introduction of the Green Deal. [92706]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) consultation was published on 23 November 2011. The Government's assessment of the impact of these policies was published in the accompanying Draft Impact Assessment:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/green-deal/3603-green-deal-eco-ia.pdf

Under the central policy scenario in this assessment, the total CO_2 savings over the lifetime of the installed measures was estimated at $114MtCO_2$ and 53 $MtCO_2$ for non-traded and traded savings respectively.

Traded carbon emissions are those covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which covers electricity generation and some industrial processes. Energy savings in properties with electric heating therefore leads to a saving in traded CO_2 emissions, while energy savings in properties with non-electric heating systems leads to savings in non-traded CO_2 emissions.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to modify the inputs of his Department's 2050 emissions calculator in line with technological advances. [93130]

Gregory Barker: The 2050 calculator

http://2050-calculator-tool.decc.gov.uk

enables users to examine different ways of reducing UK greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. It was first published in July 2010 as a call for evidence. Following over 100 responses to the call for evidence, an updated and improved version of the calculator was published in March 2011 taking on board stakeholder feedback received. Since then, costs and air quality analysis has been incorporated into the tool; this was re-published in December 2011 as a call for evidence.

The calculator is a constantly evolving tool, which Government have committed to update regularly to reflect the latest scientific and economic evidence. Users are encouraged to critique and improve the new costs and air quality analysis by 8 March 2012 via a wiki website

http://2050-calculator-tool-wiki.decc.gov.uk

The Government are trialling this wiki as a means of facilitating feedback, and as an example of open-source policy-making. If it is successful, we may extend it to invite ongoing feedback on the areas where technological advances warrant reconsideration of the trajectories and underlying assumptions in the 2050 calculator.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost per household per year of achieving the UK's carbon reduction target for 2050. [93173]

Gregory Barker: DECC recently published a revised 2050 calculator designed to support users in exploring the costs of achieving the UK's carbon reduction target for 2050, available at:

http://2050-calculator-tool.decc.gov.uk/

It also published information on four plausible pathways to 2050 alongside HMG's Carbon Plan. The costs shown are the "total energy system costs", and include the costs of everything from power stations and industrial processes, to cars, planes and trains and the fuel they use, to gas boilers and cavity wall insulation in homes and workplaces. As such, they are far more wide-ranging than household energy bills and absolutely not comparable with them.

The following table shows the total energy system costs per person per year for the period 2010-50 for each of these four pathways relative to a scenario in which no action is taken to constrain emissions. They do not take into account the costs of failing to tackle climate change. A negative number represents lower costs relative to the scenario in which no action is taken. The table illustrates that a pathway that tackles climate change in a cost-effective way could be expected to be cheaper in cost (on central projections) than failing to tackle climate change, while also bringing climate and security benefits.

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Pathway	*Low fossil fuel prices*	*Central fossil fuel prices*	*High fossil fuel prices*
Core MARKAL (least cost)	87	-84	-263
Higher renewables and more energy efficiency	545	367	182
Higher nuclear and less energy efficiency	678	498	317
Higher CCS and more bioenergy	623	469	308

More detail on these pathways can be found in Part 1 and Annex A of the Carbon Plan, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/emissions/carbon_budgets/carbon_budgets.aspx

and from the 2050 Calculator web tool:

http://2050-calculator-tool.decc.gov.uk/

Storage Heating

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what research his Department has undertaken on the role of next generation electric storage heaters in decarbonising heating; [93133]

(2) what steps he is taking to encourage the uptake of next generation electric storage heaters to contribute to his aim of reduced energy use; and if he will make a statement. [93134]

Gregory Barker: The Department has recently completed its strategic analysis of heat options, and will be publishing a strategy document soon. Direct electric heating including storage heating has been considered as part of that analysis.

Competition

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral answer of 26 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 403, on competition, what steps he has taken to reduce the administrative burden on small suppliers. [93250]

Gregory Barker: In December 2011 the Government increased the customer number threshold at which suppliers are obliged to participate in the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and the Community Energy Saving Programme from 50,000 to 250,000. This means that no small suppliers will be required to participate for the remainder of these schemes.

In addition we have set the threshold for mandatory participation in the Warm Home Discount Scheme at 250,000 customers.

We are consulting on a similar threshold for the new energy company obligation alongside proposals to mitigate the "cliff edge effect" once suppliers reach the threshold.

We are also proposing to give suppliers with fewer than 250,000 customers the choice of opting in or out of administering Green Deal payments.

Departmental Credit Cards

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* transaction date, *(b)* amount and *(c)* description was for all purchases made by Ministers, special advisers and officials in his Department on departmental credit cards between May 2010 and December 2011. [93188]

Gregory Barker: The Department has published on its website the information requested for transactions over £500 made using departmental Government procurement cards between April and October 2011. The Department will publish this information for 2010-11 before 31 March 2012.

Going forward, the Department will publish this information for transactions over £500 on a monthly basis.

The information can be found through the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/expenditure/spend_over_500/spend_over_500.aspx

Departmental Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* pay grade is of each member of staff in the private office of the (i) Minister of State for Climate Change and (ii) Minister of State for Energy. [93187]

Gregory Barker: The following table shows the details of staffing in each private office.

Grade	*Title*	*Number*
Minister of State for Climate Change		
Grade 7	Senior Private Secretary	1
Higher Executive Officer (HEO)/Fast Stream	Private Secretary	2
Executive Office (EO)	Diary Manager	1
Administrative Officer (Part time)	Office Manager	1
Minister of State for Energy		
Grade 7	Senior Private Secretary	1
HEO	Private Secretary	2
EO	Diary Manager	1

Energy Efficiency

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) with which organisations he has discussed the UK's energy efficiency targets; [92707]

(2) what discussions he has had with existing providers of insulation measures on the UK's energy efficiency targets. [92708]

Gregory Barker: The Department has regular contact with a range of organisations with an interest in the UK's current and proposed energy efficiency programmes, including the GB-wide Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, the Community Energy Saving Programme and the emerging Green Deal. Organisations include energy suppliers, companies involved in the supply chain such as the insulation industry, trade organisations, NGOs, consumer representatives and other interested parties.

We have also received many relevant views, including from representatives of the insulation industry, as part of the recent public consultation on the Green Deal.

Energy: Meters

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has any plans to issue guidance for the safe use of smart meters, including on the effects of electromagnetic radiation. [93077]

Charles Hendry: Telecommunication technologies used in deploying smart meters will have to comply with relevant regulations and international standards as set out by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

The ICNIRP guidelines are based on a critical in-depth evaluation of the established scientific literature and represent the international consensus about this evidence. In addition, the current view of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks is that there is no consistent evidence of adverse health effects occurring at levels within the ICNIRP exposure guidelines.

We will continue to work with the Department of Health and the HPA to keep the evidence base under review.

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has any plans to ensure that information on potential health effects is included with smart meters. [93078]

Charles Hendry: We are currently considering what information, and methods of communication, will be most useful to consumers in understanding how smart meters work, and in addressing a range of questions, including in relation to concerns about potential health effects.

This will be a part of our consumer engagement strategy, on which we will be consulting in the spring.

Energy: Prices

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on new entrants in the energy retail market use of loss-leading online energy tariffs. [93092]

Charles Hendry: I am concerned that significant introductory discounts offered by some suppliers may make it more difficult for new entrants to compete and have already raised the matter with Ofgem.

I have asked the chief executive of Ofgem to write to the hon. Member and we will place a copy of his letter in the Libraries of the House.

Environment Protection: Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the insulation industry in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2012 and *(c)* 2013. [93231]

Gregory Barker: DECC is not in a position to answer this question as this Department does not hold official employment statistics.

Where DECC policies are expected to affect employment, analysis is contained in the relevant Impact Assessment.

Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral answer of 26 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 4081, on feed-in tariff for solar photovoltaic, whether he plans to instigate an inquiry into the handling of the proposals to reduce feed-in tariffs. [93251]

Gregory Barker: The Department has already commissioned a review of lessons for the future.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of the feed-in tariff for small-scale hydropower. [93407]

Gregory Barker: We will be publishing a consultation by 9 February which will consider other aspects of the feed-in tariffs scheme for non-PV technologies including the tariffs for small-scale hydropower. It will also consider proposals to make the FITs scheme more intelligent and responsive to change, to remove the need for stop-start reviews and provide greater transparency, longevity and certainty to the industry.

Fuel Poverty

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households likely to be in fuel poverty in *(a)* December 2012, *(b)* December 2013, *(c)* December 2014 and *(d)* December 2015. [93230]

Gregory Barker: The latest fuel poverty statistics relate to 2009 and were published in November 2011. In this annual report, projections for the next two years were published. The projection for 2010 shows there are likely to be around 4 million households in fuel poverty in England, and 4.1 million in 2011. Annual figures for 2010 will be published in May along with projections for 2012.

Fuel Poverty: Hendon

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* Hendon constituency, *(b)* London and *(c)* the UK are in fuel poverty. [93222]

Gregory Barker: In 2009, the most recent year for which data are available, the number of households in fuel poverty for these areas was as follows:

Area	*Number of households in fuel poverty*
(a) Hendon constituency	5,400
(b) London	402,000
(c) UK	3,964,000

Infrastructure: Capital Investment

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to encourage private sector capital investment in its infrastructure investment programme. [93153]

Charles Hendry: The National Infrastructure Plan 2011 sets outs the actions which the Government are taking to support private sector capital investment in the energy sector, working closely with industry and the regulator.

The National Infrastructure Plan is available at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_infrastructure_plan291111.pdf

Natural Gas: Exploration

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of energy is generated using shale gas produced in the UK; and whether he has plans to increase this proportion. [93351]

Charles Hendry: There is currently no energy generation from shale gas in the UK. Exploration for shale gas in the UK has only recently started and it will be some years before the prospects for commercial production can be properly assessed.

As with all other indigenous oil and gas, the Government support industry's endeavours to develop these resources where economically viable, providing this can be done safely and with full regard to the protection of the environment.

Nuclear Power

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken to protect nuclear power stations from cyber attack by foreign governments. [93362]

Charles Hendry: All security arrangements for the protection of UK nuclear sites are kept under constant review as part of a continuous process to ensure arrangements are robust and effective. Operators are required to have security plans in place which are approved by the regulator. These arrangements would be reviewed in response to any change in threat level. For national security reasons, Ministers do not comment on specific operational security matters.

Photovoltaics

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral answer of 26 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 392, on photovoltaics, what recent estimate his Department has made of the average cost to households of meeting the proposed energy efficiency standard. [93249]

Gregory Barker: The Government's recent consultation, and supporting impact assessment, on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics included illustrative examples of the costs of meeting the proposed energy efficiency requirement. The consultation closed on 23 December and we have been carefully analysing all responses received. We will shortly be publishing the Government's response to the consultation, and an updated impact assessment.

Warm Front Scheme

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for a Warm Front grant were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [93203]

Gregory Barker: The number of Warm Front applications accepted and rejected in 2010-11 and 2011-12 is shown in the following table:

Scheme year	*Applications accepted*	*Applications rejected*
2010-11	122,798	103,721
2011-12[1]	32,191	20,805

[1] Figures up to 31 December 2011.

Warm Home Discount Scheme

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to provide information to people eligible for the warm home discount rebate. [93172]

Gregory Barker: There are two discounts payable under the warm home discount scheme; the core group and the broader group discounts, both worth £120 in 2011-12. Additionally, this year, suppliers are also providing support through discounted tariffs. General information on the scheme is available on the DECC website at

www.decc.gov.uk/warmhome

which also provides links to relevant suppliers' websites.

The warm home discount scheme uses data from the Department for Work and Pensions to identify a core group of pension credit recipients who may be eligible for the core group discount. All of these customers will receive a letter about the scheme.

Before Christmas 2011, the Government sent out around 600,000 letters to pension credit customers advising them that their electricity supplier would award an automatic discount to their electricity account. A further 300,000 letters will be sent out by February to pension credit customers asking them to contact the scheme's call-centre to check their eligibility for the core group discount. More information on the core group discount can be found at

www.direct.gov.uk/warmhome

The energy suppliers participating in the scheme are responsible for publicising the availability of their broader group discount schemes.

Wind Power

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for the construction of commercial wind turbines have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in (i) Metropolitan borough of Solihull, (ii) Highland council area, (iii) Chiltern local government district, (iv) Scottish Borders council area and (v) Shropshire unitary authority since May 2010. [93166]

Charles Hendry: DECC publishes information on its Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD)[1] which tracks the progress of renewable electricity projects through the planning system and is updated on a monthly basis.

The latest REPD data (December 2011) show that no commercial wind turbine applications have been made or approved since May 2010 by the local planning authorities of Solihull metropolitan borough council, Chiltern district council or Shropshire council. Eight applications have been received and four approved since May 2010 by the Highland council. Nine applications have been received and one approved by the Scottish Borders council.

[1] https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/planning-database/

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for the construction of commercial wind turbines have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in (i) Waverley local government district, (ii) Birmingham metropolitan borough, (iii) London borough of Wandsworth, (iv) borough of Brentwood and (v) borough of Eastleigh since May 2010. [93167]

Charles Hendry: DECC publishes information on its Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD)[1], which tracks the progress of renewable electricity projects through the planning system and is updated on a monthly basis.

The latest REPD data (December 2011) show that no commercial wind turbine applications have been made or approved since May 2010 by the local planning authorities of Waverley borough council, Birmingham city council, Wandsworth borough council, Brentwood borough council or Eastleigh borough council.

[1] https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/planning-database/

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for the construction of commercial wind turbines have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in (i) South Cambridgeshire local government district, (ii) Surrey Heath local government district, (iii) London borough of Waltham Forest, (iv) London borough of Richmond, (v) Runnymede local government district and (vi) West Oxfordshire local government district since May 2010. [93168]

Charles Hendry: DECC publishes information on its Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD)[1], which tracks the progress of renewable electricity projects through the planning system and is updated on a monthly basis.

The latest REPD data (December 2011) show that no commercial wind turbine applications have been made or approved since May 2010 by the local planning authorities of South Cambridgeshire district council, Surrey Heath borough council, London borough of

Waltham Forest, London borough of Richmond, Runnymede borough council or West Oxfordshire district council.

[1] https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/planning-database/

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for the construction of commercial wind turbines have been (a) received and (b) approved in (i) Royal borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, (ii) borough of Rushcliffe, (iii) Cheshire East unitary authority, (iv) Richmondshire local government district and (v) Hambleton local government district and (vi) Sheffield metropolitan borough since May 2010. [93169]

Charles Hendry: DECC publishes information on its Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD)[1], which tracks the progress of renewable electricity projects through the planning system and is updated on a monthly basis.

The latest REPD data (December 2011) show that no commercial wind turbines applications have been made or approved since May 2010 by the local planning authorities of Windsor and Maidenhead royal borough council, Rushcliffe borough council, Cheshire East council, Richmondshire district council or Sheffield city council. One application has been received (0.15 MW) and one approved since May 2010 by Hambleton district council.

[1] https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/planning-database/

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Basking Sharks: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effect of Marine Conservation Zones on the protection of basking sharks in UK waters. [92053]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is commissioning an independent review of the current science on the merits of protecting mobile species through Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), and an assessment of the extent to which the regional project recommendations support the protection of mobile species and birds. Basking sharks will be included in that study, which will be published on completion.

Biodiversity: British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to improve biodiversity conservation in the British Overseas Territories. [92872]

Richard Benyon: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brent North (Barry Gardiner) on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 194W.

However, I would add that in November 2011, at the 2011 Overseas Territories Consultative Council, I announced funding of £394,000 towards four new projects in the Overseas Territories. These comprise a project to eradicate invasive mice from Gough Island; a project to look at the effects of large marine reserves on pelagic, migratory species in the Chagos Island Marine Reserve; and two projects addressing the decline of albatross and petrel populations.

The DEFRA submission to the Prime Minister, referred to in the previous answer, has now been published on the DEFRA website, and it includes inter alia a commitment to elaborate an implementation plan for the UK Government Strategy for Biodiversity in the Overseas Territories.

Biodiversity: Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on biodiversity conservation in the Crown dependencies in each of the last five years. [92873]

Richard Benyon: Nature conservation within the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is the responsibility of the Governments of those Territories. The Overseas Territories Governments are supported by DEFRA, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development while those in the Crown Dependencies are supported by the Ministry of Justice. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has a role to advise and support this process, working closely with the Territories and Government Departments.

DEFRA spend on biodiversity conservation in the Crown Dependencies in each of the last five years is set out in the following table:

	Expenditure (£)
2007-08	[1]—
2008-09	[1]—
2009-10	[1]—
2010-11	5,000
2011-12	13,000

[1] Indicates figures are negligible.

Common Fisheries Policy

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she plans to have with her Spanish counterpart on their respective positions on Common Fisheries Policy reform aimed at sustaining fish stocks and fishing communities. [92391]

Richard Benyon: Following the recent general election in Spain, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has invited Sr Miguel Arias Canete, the new Spanish Secretary of State for Agriculture, Food and Environment to discuss the reform of both the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Common Agricultural Policy.

As the UK Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries, I will continue to press our case for reform of the CFP with my ministerial colleagues from other EU member states, including Spain, as well as with the EU Commission and European Parliament.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidelines her Department issued to its non-departmental bodies on the employment of unpaid interns prior to July 2011. [92948]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA issued guidance to its non-departmental public bodies in June 2011 which made clear that the employment of unpaid interns is not permitted.

Environmental Protection: Seas and Oceans

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of progress towards meeting the targets and indicators to achieve Good Environmental Status in marine waters by July 2012 under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. [92258]

Richard Benyon: The Marine Strategy Framework Directive requires member states to put in place measures to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) in their marine waters by 2020. This is broken down into a number of stages that need to be implemented before 2020. These stages include the development of an initial assessment of a member state's marine waters (to be completed by 2012); deciding characteristics of GES and associated targets and indicators (again to be completed by 2012); the establishment of monitoring programmes to measure progress towards GES (by 2014), and the establishment of programmes of measures to achieve GES (by 2016).

The UK Government and devolved Administrations plan to publish a public consultation shortly on the first stages of the implementation process. This will include a summary of the UK Initial Assessment and proposals for UK characteristics of GES and associated targets and indicators. The consultation will be accompanied by an impact assessment that analyses the potential costs and benefits to the UK of achieving the proposed targets for GES.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps her Department is taking to promote cleaner oceans; [92676]

(2) what assessment she has made of her Department's progress towards dealing with threats to the UK's marine ecosystems; [92677]

(3) what plans her Department has to address the problem of the increasing amount of marine litter. [92678]

Richard Benyon: In 2010, the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy Community (set up by the UK Government and the devolved Administrations) published Charting Progress 2, the result of a five-year study into how human use and other pressures, such as climate change, are affecting our seas, and the progress being made toward the UK marine vision of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'. It draws on evidence gathered by scientists from marine agencies, research institutes, universities, environmental organisations and industries.

Drawing on the conclusions from Charting Progress 2, we are implementing a package of policies to ensure that our seas are used sustainably. These include marine planning and marine conservation zones, and implementing European legislation such as the habitats and birds directives, the water framework directive and the marine strategy framework directive. The UK's approaches to reform of the common fisheries policy and domestic fisheries management reform are also part of our approach.

The UK co-operates with other north-east Atlantic states under the OSPAR convention for the protection of the marine environment to address inputs to the sea of nutrients, hazardous substances and radioactive substances to the sea from land-based sources. OSPAR has also successfully regulated discharges of oil and other chemicals from the offshore industry. Work in other international frameworks that regulate the use of hazardous substances globally also contributes to clean oceans.

Most marine litter is thought to arise from terrestrial sources. We are working to address the problem of litter generally through wider waste reduction strategies and through community based behavioural change activity led by Keep Britain Tidy. The problem of litter arising from activities at sea is addressed through the Responsible Fishing Scheme, administered through Seafish, and the implementation of the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage and Garbage from Ships) Regulations.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her assessment is of her Department's progress towards achieving its commitment to designating a fully coherent network of marine protected areas by 2012; and if she will make a statement. [92679]

Richard Benyon: The Government's plans for marine conservation zones were set out in a written ministerial statement on 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 35WS.

The habitats directive and wild birds directive requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to protect habitats and species listed under the habitats directive, and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) to protect wild birds as set out under the birds directive. Together SACs and SPAs contribute to the creation of a network of protected areas known as Natura 2000.

In August 2010, the UK took a major step in completing the Natura 2000 network by putting forward a package of 15 marine sites to the European Commission for designation. Further sites were submitted to the Commission in 2011, including the Dogger Bank SAC, which became the largest marine protected area to be submitted to the European Commission by any member state.

Consultations were also undertaken in 2011 for a further three offshore sites (Wight Barfleur reef, Pisces Reef Complex and Croker Carbonate Slabs) and an inshore site (Studland to Portland). These sites, together with others being pursued by the devolved Administrations, are expected to be transmitted to the Commission in 2012, and should complete the SAC network in UK waters.

DEFRA is continuing to work with Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to finalise plans to complete the identification of SPAs for birds in the English and UK offshore area (except in waters adjacent to Scotland) by the end of 2015. Nearly a quarter of English waters are now protected by European sites.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories: Governors

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on ceremonial dress for governors of British Overseas Territories in each of the last 20 years. [92869]

Mr Bellingham: Since 2001, Overseas Territory governments have been responsible for deciding whether governors wear ceremonial dress and for funding uniforms. Bermuda, the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar opted to retain ceremonial dress. My Department has provided no funding. Where governors have a military background, as is often the case in Gibraltar, they have tended to use their own uniforms. Information on spending prior to 2001 is not immediately available and I will write to my hon. Friend separately with any information that we can make available.

Conflict Prevention

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to mainstream gender considerations in the implementation of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy. [92681]

Mr Bellingham: Action on Women, Peace and Security is a key element of our work on Building Stability Overseas as women have a central role in building stability and resolving conflict. In line with the Government's National Action Plan for UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, we will continue to tackle violence against women and support the role of women in building peace.

A central approach of the Building Stability Overseas strategy has been to integrate conflict analysis and conflict resolution tools into the Government's assessment of and efforts to resolve conflicts in different regions and countries of the world. Part of that approach has involved raising officials' and other stakeholders' consciousness of gender considerations in building stability and resolving conflict. To that end, the Government have circulated widely among their diplomatic posts abroad a Women Peace and Security Toolkit, aimed at helping posts develop country based activity on women, peace and security issues which supports overall stability and conflict resolution goals.

We are working closely with civil society to organise at an early stage a workshop focused on the Building Stability Overseas strategy. This will contribute to ongoing work to set the Government's work on women, peace and security firmly within the context of the Building Stability Overseas strategy.

The Revision of the National Action Plan for UN Security Council Resolution 1325 will be published in early 2012.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the likely timing of provincial and local elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [92689]

Mr Bellingham: Provincial assembly elections are scheduled to take place in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in March, however we expect that they will be delayed until later in the year. We will press the DRC electoral commission (CENI) to ensure that they use any delay to improve their processes and address the concerns over their performance during the presidential and national assembly elections. Local elections are due in 2013.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1191W, on departmental manpower, how many of his Department's UK-based staff serving overseas have a speaker requirement at *(a)* confidence and *(b)* operational level; and how many of them are in receipt of additional remuneration which is linked to that qualification. [93072]

Mr Bellingham: There are approximately 120 overseas slots with a speaker requirement to confidence level and approximately 460 slots with a speaker requirement to operational level. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officers who have passed the relevant qualification at confidence level in less complex languages receive a one-off payment. Only those qualifying at confidence level in the hardest categories of languages are entitled to claim allowances for the duration of their overseas posting. As at 31 January 2012 approximately 20 officers at confidence level are in receipt of these allowances. At operational level, approximately 110 officers serving in overseas speaker slots are currently in receipt of these allowances. Others who pass their examinations during their posting will become eligible to apply for the relevant allowances at that point.

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of senior positions in his Department are held by women. [93120]

Mr Bellingham: As at 31 December 2011, the representation of women at the senior levels of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is 22%.

Departmental Travel Costs

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92852]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) agreed a contract for the provision of taxi and bus services on 1 April 2011 with Raffles Taxis, a company based in Milton Keynes where the FCO has offices. The benefits of this contract are that the FCO can save money via discounted rates. Bookings are consolidated leading to savings over multiple journeys and fares. The company provide the FCO with management information which enables monitoring of spend. In addition, the use of a managed contractor ensures safety for staff.

FCO expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the HM Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Work Experience

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what work experience or traineeship schemes his Department offers to minority groups. [92746]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers work experience opportunities designed to attract a talented and diverse pool of candidates.

In 2011, the FCO took part in the new Whitehall Internship programme and also the FCO ran its own summer work experience scheme for undergraduates, the Partner University Placement Scheme (PUPS). In 2011, PUPS was targeted at female undergraduates who had been under-represented in the FCO's Fast Stream intake. 20 interns were taken on under this scheme.

The FCO is currently planning its work experience schemes for 2012 and details will be put on our website in due course:

www.fco.gov.uk/careers

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department has for the celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. [92460]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will be working through our overseas network of posts to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee overseas. Like the London 2012 Games, the Diamond Jubilee is an opportunity to demonstrate the best of the UK to the world. We will work closely with the royal household. We are currently developing specific plans. In the UK, the Foreign Secretary's annual reception for the diplomatic corps for the Queen's birthday will become a jubilee celebration.

Diplomatic Service: Females

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* ambassadors and *(b)* high commissioners are women. [93115]

Mr Bellingham: As at 31 December 2011, 19% of our ambassadors are female and 22% of our high commissioners are female. The number of female heads of mission is currently at an all time high of 37, compared with 18 only five years ago.

Diplomatic Service: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria his Department applied in deciding whether to *(a)* retain, *(b)* upgrade, *(c)* localise and *(d)* abolish UK-based band A and B grade posts at UK embassies and high commissions. [92885]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), made it clear in a speech in London on 8 September that he intends to strengthen the long term capability and international effectiveness of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and to improve our country's capacity to pursue effective foreign policy for years and even decades to come. The extension and strengthening of our global diplomatic network, with staff who have the necessary abilities and diplomatic skills, are key objectives of this Government and the FCO has made funding these goals a priority.

By April 2014 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will introduce new technology and change the way we support the work of our diplomats in our overseas missions. These changes will mean that in the majority of places we will no longer require UK-based staff to perform support activity. Over the same period we will reduce to a minimum the number of Band A and B jobs overseas. This will bring the FCO into line with other Government Departments and private sector organisations. This programme will save £23 million per year by April 2014. Those savings are not easy but they are essential. They will help us to live within the necessary financial constraints and to provide the diplomatic network we need for the future.

No members of staff will be made compulsorily redundant as a result of this programme, with positions in the UK available to staff returning from overseas tours. We have brought forward an extensive package of learning and development opportunities for staff affected to address concerns raised about the impact of reduced overseas postings at these grades.

Decisions on individual positions were taken by the FCO's Management Board in December. Positions were *(a)* retained where activity would still be required but could not be performed by locally engaged staff, for example because they could not easily gain a sufficient level of security clearance or would not get consular accreditation from the host Government. Positions were *(b)* upgraded in cases where the merging of a number of existing positions, either in one post or across a regional network, delivered an overall efficiency saving. Positions were *(c)* localised where activity would remain and there were no barriers to this being delivered by locally engaged staff and *(d)* eliminated where the activity currently undertaken would be eliminated by new technology and working practices.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to ensure the safety of locally-engaged staff in a UK embassy or high commission in the event of UK staff being evacuated. [92886]

Mr Bellingham: The safety of our staff is a priority. We will do what we reasonably can to ensure locally engaged staff are safe where we are forced to close or evacuate an embassy. Our course of action will differ according to the length of time that UK based staff are expected to be absent. Our general approach is not to ask staff to undertake any duties we judge would put them or their families at risk. When we envisage a prolonged period of closure, we will consider arrangements including duty of care oversight for locally engaged staff via third country embassies acting our behalf.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff working in UK *(a)* embassies, *(b)* high commissions and *(c)* consulates are (i) female, (ii) black and ethnic minority and (iii) disabled. [92888]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office records the gender of all its UK based civil servants and locally engaged staff. We also strongly encourage UK based staff to make voluntary declarations of ethnic background (Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)) and disability. Not all staff choose to do so. The current overall declaration rate for ethnicity is some 80% while for disability it is around 30%. We do not ask locally engaged staff to declare ethnicity or disability.

For ethnicity and disability, the number of UK based staff reported in the following table who are currently working overseas is, therefore, based on the sub-set of staff choosing to make a voluntary declaration and may not reflect the UK based work force as a whole.

We do not record staff details by embassy, high commission or consulate and the information could be prepared only at disproportionate cost.

	Total staff	*Female*	*BME*	*Disabled*
UK based	1,843	636	327	42
Locally engaged	8,689	3,914	[1]—	[1]—

[1] No data

Note:

Figures are for 1 January 2012

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff currently based in the UK are *(a)* SMS, *(b)* A band, *(c)* B band, *(d)* C band and *(e)* D band; and how many staff in each such grade are (i) female, (ii) black and ethnic minority and (iii) disabled. [92889]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office records the gender of all its UK based civil servants. We also strongly encourage staff to make voluntary declarations of ethnic background (Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)) and disability. Not all staff choose to do so. The current overall declaration rate for ethnicity is some 80% while for disability it is around 30%. For ethnicity and disability, the number of staff reported in the following table who are currently working in the UK is, therefore, based on the sub-set of staff choosing to make a voluntary declaration and may not reflect the UK based work force as a whole.

	Total staff	*Female*	*BME*	*Disabled*
A	607	362	138	42
B	633	347	106	36
C	737	333	52	41
D	562	233	23	19
SMS	147	45	8	6
Total	2,686	1,320	327	144

Note:

Figures are for 1 January 2012

Employment Agencies

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 81W, on employment agencies, how much of the £26,128.14 spent on recruitment agencies was spent on agency *(a)* fees and *(b)* staff. [92594]

Mr Bellingham: Over the period covered by the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 81W, the external recruitment agencies involved broke down the costs to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as follows: *(a)* £19,978.14 on fees; and *(b)* £6,150 on staff.

The figure on fees covers the set up costs of the recruitment campaigns and the costs for activities undertaken by the recruitment agency during the hiring process. The figure on staff reflects the total paid for personnel costs of the project teams at the recruitment agencies.

The FCO uses recruitment agencies to attract the widest possible range of talented applicants. For specialist campaigns, agencies are better placed to target applicants with the most relevant skills within that sector. The use of agencies has proven to be more cost-effective than using in-house recruitment resources for those aspects of campaigns.

All of the positions for which external recruitment campaigns were held during this period were approved for external recruitment as either business critical or a front line service, in accordance with the terms of the Government-wide recruitment freeze.

European Union: Treaties

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on the prospects for treaty change in the EU. [92761]

Mr Lidington: I have regular discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister on a range of issues relating to my departmental responsibilities.

Languages

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many designated slots his Department has for staff at *(a)* confidence, *(b)* operational and *(c)* extensive language qualification levels. [93073]

Mr Bellingham: There are currently approximately 120 designated speaker slots for staff at confidence level, approximately 460 slots at operational and approximately 110 at extensive level.

Piracy

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the potential cost of piracy to the UK economy in 2012; and what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on ways of minimising that cost. [92674]

Mr Bellingham: It has been estimated by One Earth Future that maritime piracy could be costing the global economy up to US$12 billion a year, both directly and indirectly such as through increased insurance premiums. The turnover of the British shipping industry is worth £10.7 billion of our national GDP. Approximately US$1 trillion of trade to and from Europe travels through the Gulf of Aden, the second busiest international trade route in the world and a key area affected by piracy.

Britain is playing a leading role in counter-piracy operations at sea off the Horn of Africa, and in the same region we are leading international work with regional partners to build penal, judicial and law enforcement capacities in support, with more than 1,000 pirates now in custody. We are also playing an active role to take steps to address piracy off the western coast of Africa.

The first line of defence remains self-defence by ships to minimise the risk of successful hijack. But the long-term solution to maritime piracy lies on land, with the development of justice and rule of law capacity and increased stability.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of piracy to the UK economy in the last five years; and what steps his Department has taken to minimise this cost. [92675]

Mr Bellingham: The turnover of the British shipping industry is worth £10.7 billion of our national GDP; nearly $1 trillion of trade to and from Europe travelled through the Gulf of Aden in 2008 and this is the second busiest international trade route in the world. One World Future has estimated that piracy could be costing the global economy up to $12 billion a year in direct costs and indirect costs such as increased insurance premiums.

Britain is playing a leading role in the counter-piracy operations at sea, and we are leading international work with regional countries to build penal, judicial and law enforcement capacities in support, with more than 1,000 pirates now in custody. The first line of defence remains self-defence measures by ships to minimise the risk of a successful highjack. But the long-term solution lies on land, with rule of law and increased stability.

Somalia: Conferences

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Somali *(a)* civil society organisations and *(b)* women leaders will be invited to participate in the London conference on Somalia in February 2012. [92683]

Mr Bellingham: Because this conference is about international coordination, only governments and multilateral organisations are invited to the day itself. But we are very keen to use the opportunity of the conference to deepen our engagement with academia, civil society and the Somali diaspora. In the run-up we will hold a number of events, both in the UK and in the region, which will provide an opportunity to feed in views and we will invite Somali civil society and prominent women from the Somali diaspora. We're also inviting comments via our website on the key themes that will be coming up at the conference.

Tristan da Cunha: M.S. Olivia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on progress following the collision of M.S. Olivia with Nightingale Island, Tristan da Cunha. [92870]

Mr Bellingham: We are in close contact with the Tristan da Cunha authorities in dealing with the aftermath of the M.V. Olivia sinking. Negotiations with the vessel's insurers continue and fishery experts met in Cape Town in November to agree the way ahead on the affected areas of the lobster fishery. In addition, a specialist team conducted an underwater survey of the wreck in early January. While the report of this survey has not yet been issued, early indications are that the wreck continues to be broken up by the South Atlantic.

The British Government remain determined that all costs resulting from this incident must be borne by the M.V. Olivia's owners and insurers.

HEALTH

Care Quality Commission

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 194W, on the Care Quality Commission, whether the Care Quality Commission conducted an analysis of regulation and regulators' experience in dealing with the specialist versus generic inspector role referred to in its 9 December 2009 board meeting minutes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of any such analysis. [93071]

Mr Simon Burns: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The CQC conducted a high-level assessment examining the pros and cons of a 'specialist inspector' versus 'generic inspector supported by specialists' field force model drawing on lessons learnt from work with the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts (Monitor) and the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) as well as discussions with CQC staff. This included examining what 'specialist' means in the context of regulation. It also looked at which approach benefits the efficient escalation of risk; quality assurances processes; and making use of clinical input.

This assessment was presented to the CQC board on 9 December 2009 by the then chief operating officer. The CQC has provided a copy of the documents titled 'Interfaces between intelligence and the field force' and

'CQC 9 December 2009—Field force slides' that were used at this board meeting, which have been placed in the Library.

Given the scope of the changes, they were subject to a full 90-day consultation with staff and unions. They came into force in May 2010.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 194W, on the Care Quality Commission, if he will place in the Library a copy of the field force paper referred to in the 9 December 2009 Care Quality Commission board meeting minutes. [93074]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission has provided a copy of the board paper titled 'Reshaping the Field Force Model', which has been placed in the Library.

Dental Services

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to maintain the number of NHS dentists. [93064]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of dentists who deliver national health service care is growing steadily. In the year ending 31 March 2011, 22,799 dentists worked on an NHS contract, compared to 22,003 in the previous year. 820,000 more patients now have access to NHS dentistry compared to May 2010.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people are on the waiting list for an NHS dentist in *(a)* Cumbria, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England; [93136]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average time spent on a waiting list for an NHS dentist in *(a)* Cumbria, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England. [93137]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally.

Departmental Travel Costs

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 31WS, on cost of ministerial cars, whether his Department has any other arrangements for ministerial travel; and how much his Department has spent on *(a)* private hire vehicles and *(b)* taxis for each Minister since May 2010; [92849]

(2) whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92850]

Mr Simon Burns: All Ministers in the Department use public transport, where practical, while travelling on official Government business. The Department has a contract with Addison Lee for the provision of taxis on account for Ministers and the Permanent Secretaries. There has been no expenditure on private hire cars for Ministers other than the Government Car Service. According to the Department's business management system, £2,637.71 was spent on taxis between May 2010 and 31 December 2011 from the budgets attached to the ministerial offices. However, it is not possible to distinguish whether this is ministerial or Private Office staff expenditure as they share the same code.

Since May 2010, the Department has not agreed any contracts for private hire vehicles. It has agreed a contract with Addison Lee for the provision of taxis on account for Ministers and the Permanent Secretaries.

Work Experience

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work experience or traineeship schemes his Department offers to minority groups. [92755]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department participates in the Civil Service Summer Diversity Internship programme for candidates from ethnic minority groups and, recently, also for those from under-represented socio-economic backgrounds. This programme provides high-calibre undergraduates or graduates from those groups with experience in how the Government Fast Stream Scheme works as a viable career option.

The Department agreed to recruit three individuals to be placed. They received development in policy delivery from their assigned teams.

Diabetes: Nursing Posts

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist diabetes nursing posts there are in the NHS; and how many are vacant. [92693]

Paul Burstow: The current number of diabetic specialist nurses employed by the national health service is not collected centrally. The annual work force census does not separately identify specialist nurses.

It is for local NHS organisations, with their knowledge of the health needs of their local population, to train and recruit the staff needed to best meet these needs.

Disability Aids

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of expenditure by each local authority *(a)* overall and *(b)* per head of population on (i) aids and adaptations and (ii) respite care for disabled people in each of the last 10 years. [92908]

Paul Burstow: Data on local authority expenditure on social care are collected and published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre. Data on local authority expenditure on equipment and adaptations and respite care have been placed in the Library. The data for 2010-11 are provisional and subject to change. Final data for 2010-11 will be published in March 2012.

Data are available for aids and adaptations from 2001-02 to 2010-11, but data on local authority expenditure on respite care have only started to be collected as a voluntary data item on the Personal Social Services Expenditure Return (PSSEX1) return in the last two years.

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the health of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children of electromagnetic radiation from (i) smart meters and (ii) mobile phones. [93076]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) provides advice to the Government on health effects from electromagnetic fields from various sources, including radiofrequency radiation from mobile phones and smart meters. The HPA's independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation (AGNIR) reviewed health effects in relation to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields in 2003 for the then National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) (see Documents of the NRPB, volume 14, number 2, which is available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/Radiation/NPRBArchive/DocumentsOfTheNRPB/Absd1402/)

AGNIR is currently updating this review and is due to publish its findings in 2012.

In between the publication of formal review reports, the HPA monitors emerging scientific studies covering electromagnetic fields and children's and adults' health and keeps its advice under review.

The Department set up the independently managed Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme in 2001. MTHR has funded in the order of 28 projects concerning radiofrequency electromagnetic fields and health to date. Further details of the research programme are available on the MTHR website at:

www.mthr.org.uk/

Health and Social Care Bill 2010-12

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposals in the European Commission's revised public procurement directive on his legislative proposals in the Health and Social Care Bill; [93235]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of proposals made in the European Commission's revised public procurement directive on his decision to raise the private patient income cap to 49 per cent; [93240]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential effects on clinical commissioning groups of proposals made in the European Commission's revised public procurement directive to remove the distinction between Part A and Part B services; and whether this proposal affects the application of European competition law to the NHS. [93241]

Mr Simon Burns: The European Commission published its proposals for a revised public procurement directive on 20 December 2011. The proposed directive would have to be agreed by all member states for it to become law and the Government are currently finalising their negotiating position.

However, the Department does not consider that these proposals have a bearing on services provided to private patients by foundation trusts nor on the applicability, or not, of competition law to the national health service.

Health Services: North East

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members are of the NHS North East Regional Transition Programme Board; and whether any members have declared any financial remuneration or benefits from private companies. [93186]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 30 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 492W, on the NHS.

Health: Finance

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the use of ring-fenced public health funding by local authorities. [92867]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department currently makes revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs). These allocations are not broken down by service or policy area. It is for PCTs to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

Subject to the passing of the Health and Social Care Bill, from 2013-14 the Department intends to allocate a ring-fenced public health grant, targeted for health inequalities, to upper-tier and unitary local authorities (LAs) for improving the health and well-being of local populations.

In order to support the setting of future ring-fenced grants to LAs for public health, last year the Department asked PCTs to submit returns on public health outturn expenditure for 2010-11. Estimates of baseline public health spend for 2010-11 across LAs will be published shortly.

Health: Screening

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people between 40 and 70 years old participated in the NHS health check programme *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each strategic health authority area. [92902]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of eligible people between 40 and 74 offered and receiving a NHS health check between April and September 2011 has been published on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/Integratedperfomancemeasuresmonitoring/DH_129481

A copy has been placed in the Library. This information is broken down by strategic health authority. Prior to this there were no comprehensive central data collections in place to measure the number of NHS health checks received by eligible 40 to 74-year-olds.

Hospitals: Admissions

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcome was of his examination of each in-patient re-admission to the NHS; what variations there were between *(a)* clinical specialties and *(b)* hospitals in whether re-admissions were judged to be reasonable and clinically required; and what level of savings has arisen from this exercise. [92737]

Mr Simon Burns: A policy allowing, with some exceptions, primary care trusts (PCTs) not to pay service providers in cases of emergency re-admission was introduced from 1 April 2011. The policy operates at local level and details of local reviews of re-admissions are not held centrally.

PCTs are required to use the savings from non-payment for re-admissions to improve post discharge services, and at the end of the first quarter of the 2011-12 financial year strategic health authorities undertook a survey to gather information about the level and use of the savings. The survey found that £107.5 million had been saved in the first quarter. The survey findings were published on the Department's website on 22 December 2011 in *The Quarter*, which is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/12/the-quarter-quarter-2-201112/

A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Meals on Wheels

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average charge was for meals on wheels services in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years; [92910]

(2) what estimate he has made of expenditure by each local authority *(a)* overall and *(b)* per head of population on meals on wheels for pensioners in each of the last 10 years. [92911]

Paul Burstow: Information on the average charge for meals on wheels services is not collected centrally.

Data on local authority expenditure on social care are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre via the National Adult Social Care Intelligence Service online analytical processing tool. Further information is available on the Information Centre website at:

www.nascis.ic.nhs.uk

Data, provided by the Information Centre, on local authority expenditure on meals for older people—aged 65 or over—for the years 2001-02 to 2010-11 have been placed in the Library.

NHS Trusts: Procurement

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to promote and support the application of procurement best practice within and between NHS trusts; and what savings he expects to accrue from improved procurement by 2015. [93070]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently developing NHS Standards of Procurement. These standards will provide the national health service with a clear vision of "what good looks like". A resource for NHS procurement will be developed from these standards, which will include indicators, guidance on how to achieve the standards, a library of tools and templates, and national support for each one, where appropriate.

Each of the 19 standards outlines how performance in this area can be improved and sets out the characteristics of organisations at different stages on the journey to improved procurement. The standards also include suggested indicators which could be used to measure performance against each one. This set of indicators is expected to evolve as the standards start to be used and experience across the NHS is shared.

The NHS Standards of Procurement are due to be fully launched in March 2012. However, NHS procurement staff can currently access the draft document, as part of wider communication activity to develop best practice in this area continually.

The NHS Standards of Procurement are in support of, and contribute to, helping the NHS achieve the £1.2 billion cumulative procurement savings target identified as part of the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention programme by end March 2015.

NHS: Drugs

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of his Department's document entitled "Best practice for ensuring the efficient supply and distribution of medicines to patients", published in February 2011; [92738]

(2) what steps he is taking to address delays in the supply of prescribed medicines to patients. [92896]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government and organisations representing the various parts of the supply chain continue to review the issues addressed in the joint best practice guidance.

There are nearly 900 million prescriptions dispensed a year, over 10,900 community pharmacies and some 16,000 presentations of medicines, so some shortages and delivery delays are inevitable. We have well-established arrangements for dealing with these. We are continuing to work with stakeholders to minimise their impact on patients.

Primary Care Trusts: North East

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was to *(a)* Doncaster, *(b)* Barnsley, *(c)* Rotherham, *(d)* Sheffield and *(e)* Bassetlaw primary care trusts of (i) establishing and (ii) staffing cluster boards. [92857]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on costs incurred by Doncaster, Barnsley, Rotherham, Sheffield and Bassetlaw primary care trusts (PCTs) in establishing and staffing the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw PCT cluster board is not centrally collected.

The right hon. Member may wish to approach the chief executive of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw PCT cluster, which may hold some relevant information.

PCT clustering is a management tool to support PCTs to maintain management capacity and performance and to support Government policy to drive down national health service administration costs. As such, clustering supports the NHS to make savings rather than imposing costs upon it.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information his Department holds on the number of staff that have been made redundant by the primary care trusts in *(a)* Doncaster, *(b)* Barnsley, *(c)* Rotherham, *(d)* Sheffield and *(e)* Bassetlaw since

April 2010; and what the average cost per staff member was of such redundancies to each such primary care trust; [92858]

(2) how many staff redundancies by the primary care trusts in *(a)* Doncaster, *(b)* Barnsley, *(c)* Rotherham, *(d)* Sheffield and *(e)* Bassetlaw have involved an individual redundancy payment of over £75,000; [92859]

(3) what the cost to the public purse was of staff redundancies by primary care trusts in *(a)* Doncaster, *(b)* Barnsley, *(c)* Rotherham, *(d)* Sheffield and *(e)* Bassetlaw since April 2010. [92884]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not centrally available in the format requested. Information on the number, total cost and average cost of exit packages, and total number of exit packages over £40,000, for Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield primary care trusts (PCTs) for the financial year 2010-11, is shown in the following table:

Organisation	*Total number of exit packages*	*Total cost of exit packages (£000)*	*Average cost of packages (£000)*	*Total number of exit packages over £40,000*
Barnsley PCT	94	3,323	35	28
Bassetlaw PCT	11	248	23	1
Doncaster PCT	105	3,005	29	24
Rotherham PCT	53	2,257	43	17
Sheffield PCT	22	490	22	4

Notes:

1. The disclosure in the accounts reports the number and value of exit packages taken by staff leaving in the year. The expense associated with these departures may have been recognised in part or in full in a previous period.
2. Data for 2011-12 will be available in the summer, once the Department's annual report and accounts are published.
3. Exit packages include compulsory redundancies and other departures. Other departures include early retirements (except those due to ill health). Voluntary redundancies are not separately identifiable from the other departures; therefore an overall figure for redundancies is not available.
4. The exit packages are disclosed by cost band, but these bands do not allow packages with an individual payment of over £75,000 to be separately identified, since one of the reporting bands is £40,001 to £100,000. The figures in the table, therefore, include the number of exit packages in this band, and all above £100,000.

Source:

The data are taken from the audited summarisation schedules, from which the NHS (England) Summarised Accounts are prepared.

Social Services

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has assessed the potential effects of the recommendations of the Dilnot Commission on adults no longer able to fund their own social care. [92860]

Paul Burstow: The coalition agreement set out the Government's clear commitment to reforming the system of social care to provide much more control to individuals and their carers and to ease the cost burden that they and their families face.

This commitment to reform is why we acted quickly to set up the Commission on Funding of Care and Support, which published its report in July 2011.

When the commission published its report, the Government set out a clear timetable for assessing the impacts of the commission's recommendations, making the necessary trade-offs with other priorities for social care reform and deciding on the best way forward. We said that we were working towards a White Paper on social care and a progress report on funding reform in spring 2012, and we remain committed to that timetable.

The commission's report has formed the basis of the Government's recent engagement with stakeholders. This engagement exercise examined the impact of these recommendations and brought them together with other priorities for reform from across the social care system to look at the trade-offs between them.

In addition to our work with social care stakeholders, the Department is looking in detail at the impact of the commission's recommendations. A full assessment of the recommendations will be included in the progress report, which we will publish in the spring. We are not able to pre-judge the contents of that report now by commenting in detail on the impact of the recommendations.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase access to specialist training for social carers. [92862]

Paul Burstow: "A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens" recognises the need for a diverse workforce that is capable and well trained. The Department, working with Skills for Care, jointly produced a Workforce Development Strategy in May 2011, which sets out broad areas for widening access to the knowledge, skills and capacity the workforce will need in the future.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to promote social care as a career. [92863]

Paul Burstow: 'A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens' identifies the need for a capable and well-trained work force. The Department is working with Skills for Care to attract a diverse work force into the sector.

In May 2011, the Recruitment and Retention Strategy was produced jointly and promotes improved public awareness of social care careers and the opportunities on offer within the sector.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the use of funding allocated by his Department to social services. [92864]

Paul Burstow: Local authorities are responsible for decisions on spending on adult social care. At a national level, the NHS information Centre collects detailed information on Personal Social Services (PSS) expenditure through the Personal Social Services Expenditure return (PSSEX1). A copy of the most recent PSSEX1 report 'Personal Social Services Expenditure and Unit Costs:

England 2010-11—Provisional Release' has been placed in the Library, and contains provisional details of 2010-11 expenditure.

The spending review outlined an additional £1 billion per annum by 2014-15 to be allocated within the national health service to be spent on measures that support social care. The Department collected information from primary care trusts in September 2011 to understand how the transfer of NHS money was progressing and on which services it was being used. The information suggests that the money is being used on a wide range of services. A full breakdown of this can be found in the NHS publication 'The Quarter', a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the potential costs of his planned reforms on social care; and if he will make a statement. [92866]

Paul Burstow: The care and support White Paper and progress report on funding reform, planned for spring 2012, will set out the Governments plans for transforming the care and support system.

To understand what the priorities for reform should be, the Government launched 'Caring for our future'. We worked with leaders from the care and support community, supported by expert reference groups, to seek a broad range of views from people who use care and support services, carers, local councils, care providers and the voluntary sector. Further details on the engagement, discussion leads and the output from key events can be found at:

www.caringforourfuture.dh.gov.uk

The Department is currently reflecting on the findings and will continue to work with stakeholders to develop policy, including associated costs and benefits, and to help us decide the approach to the care and support White Paper and progress report on funding reform.

Social Services: Finance

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of expenditure by each local authority *(a)* overall and *(b)* per head of population on social care in each of the last 10 years. [92905]

Paul Burstow: Data on local authority expenditure on social care are collected and published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre. Data on local authority expenditure from 2001-02 to 2010-11 are provided in the tables which have been placed in the Library. The data for 2010-11 are provisional and subject to change. Final data for 2010-11 will be published in March 2012.

Social Services: Older People

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of funding for adults no longer able to fund their own social care in each of the last five years. [92868]

Paul Burstow: In the current social care system, people who can afford to pay are required to fund their own social care out of their income and assets. In some cases, people need long-term social care, and some of them will, over time, use up their assets to the point that they qualify for state support to fund their own care. At this point, the local authority will provide them with support to pay for care.

We do not centrally hold information on how many people spend down their assets and are subsequently supported by the state, nor do we know the total cost of supporting these people.

HOME DEPARTMENT

CCTV

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from police authorities on the decision by some local authorities to cease or reduce funding for the operation of CCTV; and if she will make an assessment of any potential effects of such funding reductions on the prevention and detection of crime in *(a)* Bradford, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Thurrock, *(d)* Derby and *(e)* Ashfield. [92631]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 30 January 2012]:* No such representations have been received. The provision and deployment of CCTV by local authorities is a matter for those authorities to assess in the light of local need and resources.

Cybercrime

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to increase penalties for cybercrime. [93075]

James Brokenshire: As part of the UK's Cyber Security Strategy, published in November 2011, the Government are reviewing existing legislation to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.

Drugs

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which substances considered to be legal highs are under review by her Department. [92726]

James Brokenshire: The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), the Government's independent experts, keeps under review the situation in the United Kingdom with regard to drug-related issues, including any reviews of new psychoactive substances sold as "legal highs". The current availability of these substances is being monitored and, as appropriate, individual substances will be reviewed by the ACMD and advice provided to the Government.

We have already taken a number of actions against the threat from these new substances. Parliament is due to consider the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2012 shortly, which seeks the control of a number of new psychoactive substances, using generic legislation where appropriate, on the ACMD's advice. We have introduced the new power to invoke a temporary class drug order.

Alongside these legislative actions, we have improved our drugs early warning systems to enable us to respond proactively to the issues that these new substances pose. The FRANK service is updated to provide the latest information about the harms and risks associated with known substances.

Hizb ut-Tahrir

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review her decision not to proscribe the organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir. [92811]

James Brokenshire: Hizb ut-Tahrir is an organisation about which the Government have significant concerns and its activities are kept under close review.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the level of employment of illegal immigrants in the UK in 2011. [92584]

Damian Green: The Government place high priority on effective action against illegal working. Although illegal working is by nature a clandestine activity and the consequent absence of available data prevents a detailed assessment of the scale of the problem, the UK Border Agency conducts targeted, intelligence-led enforcement operations to detect and apprehend illegal workers and penalise employers who break the law in this area. The system of civil and criminal sanctions enables the UK Border Agency to take appropriate action against non-compliant employers who negligently or deliberately employ those without permission to work in this country.

Members: Correspondence

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 27 September 2011 from the hon. Member for Luton South regarding Janoi Donacien's application for discretionary leave to remain. [92523]

Damian Green: Responses to the hon. Member's correspondence regarding this case were issued on 2 September and 13 December. Due to an error, a letter dated 30 September was misallocated and a response not issued. A response has now been sent. I am sorry for the delay in responding to the hon. Member's correspondence.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 19 December 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr B. Khan. [92802]

Damian Green: I refer the right hon. Member to my letter of 30 January 2012.

Metal Theft

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the national metal theft taskforce will hold its first meeting; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of this meeting. [92670]

James Brokenshire: The national metal theft taskforce will be an operational body focused on enforcement action rather than meetings. However, the Home Office, the Department for Transport and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) have agreed that the taskforce's work will be co-ordinated through a subgroup of the ACPO metal theft working group. We do not intend to publish minutes of those meetings, although we will report on the taskforce's progress in due course.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for the establishment of the national metal theft taskforce. [92671]

James Brokenshire: The metal theft taskforce is currently being established. Discussions are under way between British Transport Police, local police forces and other law enforcement agencies to agree the operational priorities in each area. This will help maximise the impact of the additional enforcement activity made possible by the £5 million invested through the National Infrastructure Plan.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to introduce a comprehensive set of measures to tackle metal theft in the UK; [91627]

(2) whether she has any plans to bring forward legislative proposals to tackle metal theft; and by what date she plans to bring such proposals forward; [91628]

(3) what discussions she has had with her ministerial colleagues concerning the timetable for introducing a package of measures to tackle metal theft; [91629]

(4) what recent representations she has received from her ministerial colleagues on the need to tackle metal theft. [91630]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 25 January 2012]:* Metal theft is a serious and growing national problem with wide-ranging social and financial impacts, and the Government are taking urgent action to address it, including funding a new dedicated metal theft taskforce.

The Government consider that legislation is the only sustainable, long-term solution and will lay in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill an amendment to create a new criminal offence to prohibit cash payments to purchase scrap metal; and significantly increase the fines for all offences under the existing Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, which regulates the scrap metal recycling industry. These amendments are part of our wider attempts to tackle all stages in the illegal trading of stolen scrap metal, and we shall bring forward further measures in due course.

Passports: Immigration Controls

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will estimate the number of people who have entered the UK without having their passports checked via the Eurostar route from Brussels via Lille; [86689]

(2) how often trains entering the UK from continental Europe are checked by UK Border Agency staff on arrival. [86690]

(3) what steps she is taking to prevent passengers on Eurostar trains from Brussels via Lille from entering the UK without having their passport checked. [86691]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) closely monitors all trains from Lille at St Pancras, Ebbsfleet and Ashford and carries out more detailed checks on trains where it is suspected that a passenger has evaded the controls. A significant number of passengers are also removed from the train at Lille in co-operation with Eurostar and the French authorities.

The Government and UKBA senior officials are working closely with Belgian counterparts and service operator Eurostar to strengthen controls.

Police: Croydon

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were serving in Croydon at the end of January *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012. [93144]

Nick Herbert: Police personnel data are collected on a financial year cycle. The latest available data show the number of police officers serving in Croydon as at 31 March 2010 and as at 31 March 2011 (full-time equivalent).

Police officer strength in Croydon[1]

	Number
31 March 2010	755
31 March 2011	736

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Cybercrime

Karl McCartney: To ask the hon. Member for Aberdeen North, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether Parliamentary IT systems have been the target of cyber attack in the last five years. [93131]

Mr Doran: It is not the policy of the Commission to comment on security matters. It is, however, already publicly known that Parliament was subject to a cyber attack when it was affected by the Conficker virus in March 2009.

Telephone Tapping

Karl McCartney: To ask the hon. Member for Aberdeen North, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 420W, on telephone tapping, what the Commission would consider a legitimate reason to monitor hon. Members' staff *(a)* emails and *(b)* data. [93132]

Mr Doran: I refer the hon. Member to paragraph 10 of the Houses of Parliament ICT Security Policy Statement, with which all users of the parliamentary network are expected to comply as a condition of their use of the network:

> "PICT does not routinely monitor the content of communications or internet sites visited but where misuse of the network or computer facilities is suspected it may be required to provide evidence (including the content of documents or communications) for use in disciplinary or legal proceedings. Any action will be taken strictly in accord with applicable legislation (including the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000) and parliamentary procedures, including the Speaker's Protocol."

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Board Membership

Mr Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the criteria are for membership of the board of IPSA; and what assessment he has made of the suitability of the membership of Ken Olisa against those criteria. [89775]

Mr Charles Walker: Schedule 1 of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 provides that candidates for the board of IPSA are selected by the Speaker, with the agreement of the Speaker's Committee on IPSA, on merit, on the basis of fair and open competition.

I have asked IPSA to send the criteria which formed the basis for the recruitment competition to the right hon. Gentleman and to place them in the House of Commons Library.

The statute provides that appointments to the board are made by Her Majesty on an address of the House of Commons. The motion for the appointment of current board members was agreed by the House on 2 December 2009.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Afghanistan on devolving Government powers to local officials in Helmand Province. [92300]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Developing stronger local government in Helmand and across the country is essential for the long-term stability of Afghanistan. My officials are in regular contact with the Government of Afghanistan, Provincial Governors and international partners on this issue. In Helmand, the UK is working closely with the

Provincial Governor's office, with district government officials and local communities, to ensure that local government bodies are increasingly able to deliver services and respond to citizens' needs. At the national level, the UK is helping the Independent Directorate of Local Governance to take forward key policy reforms to improve local government effectiveness.

Arms Trade: Treaties

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he is taking steps to support the participation of women from conflict-affected countries in the arms trade treaty negotiations. [92688]

Mr Duncan: The Government are very concerned by the disproportionate impact that armed violence can have on women and believe an arms trade treaty (ATT) is an opportunity to tackle the harmful effects of irresponsible arms transfers. The Department for International Development is part of the cross-Government delegation to the ATT negotiations, which works closely with delegates from other states, including those affected by conflict. Women are represented on many delegations to the negotiations. Officials have met with the Survivors Group which comprises men and women affected by armed violence.

Debt Relief

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what conditions must be met by a country before it qualifies for debt relief. [93191]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The primary debt relief mechanism is the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative for low-income countries. A country is eligible if its debt level is considered unsustainable as assessed against the following criteria, using data from the end of 2010:

(a) Income—A country must have a per capita income that qualifies it as eligible for concessional support from the World Bank's International Development Association and the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust.

(b) Indebtedness—A country must have a debt service payments to Export earnings ratio of over 150% after the full application of traditional debt relief mechanisms (additional criteria can be assessed if considered appropriate, depending on an individual country's circumstances).

There are two stages to debt relief in the HIPC process: Decision Point, which provides interim relief on debt repayments as they fall due; and Completion Point, at which stage full and irrevocable debt relief is granted.

If a country meets the eligibility criteria, to proceed to Decision Point it must have demonstrated progress towards macroeconomic stability, developed a national poverty reduction strategy and cleared any outstanding arrears to multilateral banks. Each country also agrees a specific set of reforms it will implement to qualify for the second stage. To reach Completion Point, a country must have demonstrated further progress towards stable economic management and successfully implemented its poverty reduction strategy for at least one year.

Departmental Travel Costs

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92832]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not awarded any centrally-let contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010.

To provide information relating to contracts which may have been awarded by our delegated procurement officers based in overseas locations would incur disproportionate costs. The Ministerial Car Service has been re-awarded to improve value for money.

Developing Countries: Employment

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions regarding the G20 Task Force on Employment; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of its work on increasing the number of employment opportunities in developing countries. [92213]

Mr O'Brien: DFID and DWP officials are in regular contact on the G20 agenda and development.

The work of the G20 Task Force on Employment is at an early stage. It has been mandated to consider best policy and practice in meeting the challenges of youth employment in order to feed into discussions of the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers. The UK will be engaging to encourage the group to focus on concrete, value-added outcomes.

Human Trafficking: Victims

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provides to victims of human trafficking who are returned to their home country. [93138]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not currently provide direct support to victims of human trafficking who are returned from the UK to their home country. DFID officials are discussing this issue with Home Office officials.

DFID does support a range of projects which are tackling human trafficking in developing countries. For example, we are supporting a new regional anti-trafficking project in South Asia, focusing especially on labour migration of women and girls in the garment and domestic sectors in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. The programme aims to reduce trafficking of 60,000 women and girls in these sectors over four years.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will give assistance to Bedouins in Anata following the demolition of their homes in the west bank on 23 January 2012. [92954]

Mr Duncan: The Bedouin community in Anata is currently receiving assistance from a range of humanitarian agencies following the demolition of their homes in the west bank on 23 January 2012.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has provided emergency assistance, including camping tents, food and mattresses, to the community. The Israeli Committee against House Demolitions (ICAHD) is assisting the community to clean up the site and Action against Hunger (ACF) is currently installing water tanks and mobile latrines. The Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) and the ACF are currently looking into replacing the seven residential structures and the ICAHD are planning to rebuild the community centre which was destroyed. In the interim, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OHCA) is planning to install insulated temporary structures for the community. The Norwegian Refugee Council, supported by the UK, is providing free legal support to protect the community kindergarten, which has not been demolished.

The UK is clear that the focus between the Israelis and the Palestinians should be on steps to build trust, with the aim of giving momentum to re-start negotiations. In this respect, house demolitions and the evictions of Palestinians from their homes are deeply unhelpful and cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians.

Sudan: Debts

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of *(a)* how much and *(b)* over what time period debt is owed by Sudan. [93189]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The level of Sudan's external debt is estimated to be in the order of £38 billion. One of the technical requirements for debt relief under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative is a full account of Sudan's debt covering precise amounts, creditors and time periods. The International Monetary Fund is nearing completion of this exercise.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what debt relief proposals his Department has made to Sudan. [93239]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK has told the Government of Sudan that it continues to support their aspiration to receive debt relief under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative. As part of this we have led international efforts to establish a technical working group to oversee the progress on the technical steps for HIPC. The UK has made it clear that this is subject to certain political conditions being met, including genuine progress towards inclusive peace and justice in Sudan and resolving the outstanding issues from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

West Africa: Food Supply

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he is taking steps to avert a serious food shortage in West Africa. [92308]

Mr O'Brien: The EC Humanitarian Office (ECHO) estimates that 6.8 million men, women and children across the Sahel region of West Africa are at risk of severe food shortages in the coming months. This is due to a lower harvest in 2011 compared with 2010, combined with unseasonably high cereal prices across West Africa.

In direct response to these early warning signals, my Department has announced an urgent package of support to help mitigate the crisis. British aid will help treat 68,000 severely malnourished children in Niger, Chad and Mali and provide animal feed and animal vaccinations to 30,000 families to keep their livestock alive.

In addition, British aid is already reaching those in need through the release of £7.8 million from the United Nation's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), to which Britain is a major contributor.

With Department for International Development (DFID) officials, I will continue to monitor the situation closely and will liaise with their opposite numbers in other Governments to ensure other countries take their fair share of the response.

DFID officials will continue to liaise closely with officials from other agencies and are currently visiting the region to further assess the current situation.

We also need to improve conditions for these people to withstand future droughts. Britain acted quickly in the Horn of Africa and the UK urges similarly swift leadership from our partners in the Sahel.

JUSTICE

Cybercrime

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that offenders do not have access to the internet while in prison; and whether his Department is undertaking any collaborative work with the Home Office in connection with that Department's review of legislation relating to cyber crime. [93067]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners are not permitted access to the internet, except for restricted access to approved websites for educational or resettlement purposes under strict supervision by staff. Prisoners are not allowed to operate social networking accounts while in prison. The National Offender Management Service deploys a range of security and intelligence-led measures to detect, prevent and deter access by prisoners to the internet via illicitly held mobile phones.

The Ministry of Justice will work closely with the Home Office, other Government Departments and law enforcement agencies as part of the Home Office review of legislation relating to cyber crime, once this review is under way.

Departmental Travel Costs

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 31WS, on cost of ministerial cars, whether his Department has any other arrangements for ministerial travel; and how much his Department has spent on *(a)* private hire vehicles and *(b)* taxis for each Minister since May 2010. [92841]

Mr Djanogly: There are no formal arrangements for ministerial car travel other than that provided by the Government Car and Dispatch Agency. Ministers in the Ministry of Justice do occasionally use taxis and I have provided expenditure on taxis for each Minister for the period May 2010 to December 2011 in the following table. Private hire vehicles are not used by Ministers in the Department.

Name of Minister	*Total cost of taxis (£)*
Kenneth Clarke	0
Lord McNally	260.41
Jonathan Djanogly	292.14
Crispin Blunt	143.73

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92842]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice has awarded private hire vehicle contracts since May 2010; however, no contracts have been awarded to taxi companies.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on *(a)* Public Health England's new responsibility for all drug recovery budgets and *(b)* placing a duty on Public Health England to reduce reoffending rates. [92735]

Mr Blunt: Justice Ministers regularly meet with colleagues across Government as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

My Department is working closely with the Department of Health, the Home Office and other partners to help manage the transition to new public health and criminal justice arrangements. This is overseen by a cross-Government Health and Criminal Justice Programme Board and an Offender Substance Misuse Board.

Subject to parliamentary approval, local authorities will be responsible for commissioning drug treatment services in the new public health system. Funding for this will come from a public health ring-fenced grant. Giving local authorities responsibility for commissioning drug and alcohol prevention and recovery orientated treatment services will bring together treatment provision and the wide range of local services that help promote and sustain recovery. This will help reduce health risks and cut crime and make our society safer. These goals are reflected in the Public Health Outcomes Framework published on 23 January 2012, which includes indicators on completion of drug treatment, reoffending, and a number of related indicators. Local areas will determine how they wish to improve outcomes in these areas based on the joint assessment of local needs.

Further, Public Health England will be established as an executive agency of the Department of Health. Its role will be to support local commissioners with expert advice, evidence and management information, including outcomes and value for money data. This will help promote effective prevention and treatment services integrated with local health, crime, housing and employment agencies.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the responsibility for commissioning substance misuse treatment services for people in prison and other places of prescribed detention will lie with the National Health Service Commissioning Board, under an agreement between the Secretary of State for Health and the NHS Commissioning Board.

Employment Tribunals: Business

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to keeping a record of the number of small businesses engaged in employment tribunals. [93069]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) does not record centrally which of the respondent businesses before employment tribunals are small businesses. If it were to do so, HMCTS would incur additional cost (in terms of one-off changes to IT systems and in terms of ongoing data entry burdens on staff).

However, in individual cases, employment tribunals do have access to information about the size and broad make up of respondent employers; and judges and tribunals can and do take this information into account when managing and determining cases.

Moreover, the Government do collect information about the number of small businesses engaged in employment tribunal proceedings. For example, the periodic Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications (SETA) series, run by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), gives relevant evidence for policy development and other purposes. The last survey (2008) showed that 27% of those who took part in the survey were organisations with less than 25 employees; 9% had between 25 and 49 employees; 19% had between 50 and 249 employees; and 45% had 250 or more employees.

Information on the SETA series is available online at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/employment-matters/research/seta

while the most recent survey results can be accessed at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/10-756-findings-from-seta-2008

National Youth Advocacy Service

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the National Youth Advocacy Service was refused a family contract for 2012. [93165]

Mr Djanogly: Decisions made under the tender process for the award of legal aid contracts are a matter for the Legal Services Commission (LSC), which is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme.

The LSC advises that the National Youth Advocacy Service's (NYAS) tender to deliver family legal aid services was unsuccessful because it failed to submit a tender compliant with the rules of the tender process. The LSC announced on 23 January 2012 that an additional tender round will be conducted in February which NYAS will be able to apply for, should it choose to do so.

Prisoners' Release

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on the prison estate of prisoners who were recalled having served their tariff. [91841]

Mr Blunt: As at 31 December 2011 the prison population in England and Wales included around 200 prisoners who had been recalled from life or IPP licence (having initially been released on licence after serving at least their minimum tariff).

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Sentencing

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Sentencing Council in fulfilling its statutory duty to consult Parliament on its guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [93056]

Mr Blunt: The independent Sentencing Council for England and Wales is required under sections 120(6)(c) and 122(4)(c) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 to consult the Justice Select Committee on its draft guidelines. Since its creation in April 2010, the Council has consulted the Justice Select Committee on the following draft guidelines:

Assault offences

Drug offences

Burglary offences

Overarching guidelines on allocation, totality and offences taken into consideration

Dangerous dog offences

Since April 2010, the Chairman of the Council has also given oral evidence to the Justice Select Committee on its draft guidelines on assault, burglary and drug offences, and on the contents of the Council's annual report.

Section 119 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 requires the Council to prepare an annual report on its work, and requires the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), to lay a copy before Parliament. The Council's first annual report for 2010-11 was laid before Parliament on 18 October 2011.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure that the Sentencing Council improves public confidence in judicial sentencing; and if he will make a statement. [93079]

Mr Blunt: The independent Sentencing Council for England and Wales has a statutory duty under section 120(1 l)(d) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 to have regard to the need to promote public confidence in the criminal justice system when preparing sentencing guidelines.

Since its creation in April 2010, the Council has sought views from victims and communities on its draft guidelines through public events, online questionnaires, plain English consultation documents, and by carrying out public attitudes research. The Council produces a leaflet and a website on sentencing, explaining the main factors judges and magistrates take into consideration when deciding on an appropriate sentence. It is also producing a short film to help victims and witnesses better understand the sentencing framework.

Victims' Commissioner: Public Appointments

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when a new Victims' Commissioner will be appointed. [92709]

Mr Blunt: We are considering the future of the role and will make an announcement after the consultation on the paper 'Getting it Right for Victims and Witnesses', launched on 30 January, is complete.

Victims: Compensation

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to changing the composition of the Sentencing Council better to reflect the views of victims of crime; and if he will make a statement. [93080]

Mr Blunt: Judicial appointments to the Sentencing Council for England and Wales are made by the Lord Chief Justice. Non-judicial appointments are made by the Lord Chancellor. Schedule 15 to the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 sets out a number of areas of experience which make a person eligible for appointment as a non-judicial member of the Council, including experience of the promotion of the welfare of victims of crime. The Council's current non-judicial members were appointed in April 2010 for terms of three years.

Since its creation in April 2010, the Council has sought the views of victim groups and individual victims on each of its draft guidelines. It has also undertaken a number of research projects to elicit the views and attitudes of victims. The Council is currently completing research on attitudes to sentencing sexual offences, which has included interviews with victims (or the parents of victims where the offence was against a person under 16).

Victims: Terrorism

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals on compensation for victims of terrorism. [92710]

Mr Blunt: On 30 January the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), announced the Government's intention to introduce two new schemes for making payments to victims of terrorism overseas. A statutory scheme, made under the Crime and Security Act 2010, will be for eligible victims of future terrorist acts abroad while an ex gratia scheme will be for victims of terrorist acts going back to 2002. A draft of the statutory scheme will be laid in Parliament for approval by a resolution of both Houses before coming into force.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92822]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office has not agreed any contracts for private hire vehicles and taxi companies since May 2010.

Work Experience

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what work experience or traineeship schemes his Department offers to minority groups. [92743]

Mr Paterson: Following the devolution of Policing and Justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly on 12 April 2010, all home civil servants within my Department have adopted the terms and conditions of the Ministry of Justice. In doing so the Department has also adopted MOJ guidance on apprenticeships and work experience schemes which are open to all staff, including those from minority groups.

SCOTLAND

Deloitte

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what contracts his Department has awarded to Deloitte and its associates since May 2010; and what the *(a)* net and *(b)* individual value of each such contract was. [92990]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has awarded no contracts to Deloitte and its associates since May 2010.

Departmental Expenditure: Alcoholic Drinks

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* wine, *(b)* other alcoholic refreshments and *(c)* bottled water since May 2010. [92647]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not hold the information in the format requested.

All expenditure incurred is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 101-2W, on departmental recruitment, how much of the £816.27 spent on recruitment agencies was spent on agency *(a)* fees and *(b)* staff. [92593]

David Mundell: The total spend on recruitment agencies of £816.27 all relates to staffing costs.

Departmental Travel Costs

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 31WS, on cost of ministerial cars, whether his Department has any other arrangements for ministerial travel; and how much his Department has spent on *(a)* private hire vehicles and *(b)* taxis for each Minister since May 2010. [92819]

David Mundell: Scotland Office Ministers hire ministerial cars or private hire cars if and when required for ministerial business and on occasions make use of taxis or public transport.

The cost of ministerial travel between May 2010 and December 2011 is shown in the following table:

£

	Secretary of State	*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State*
Private hire vehicles	43,116	15,624
Taxis	3,303	4,218

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92820]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not entered into any new contracts with private hire vehicle or taxi companies since May 2010.

Elections: Local Government

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2012 to question 92101, how many registered voters there were in each category who were eligible to register to vote in local government elections but not eligible to register to vote in UK parliamentary elections as at 1 December 2010. [93164]

David Mundell: Of those eligible to register to vote in local government elections but not eligible to register to vote in UK Parliament elections, the numbers registered as at 1 December 2010 by category are:

	Number
Citizens of the European Union	58,004
Peers	54

Electoral statistics are reported by the General Register Office for Scotland and further information can be found on its website:

http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/electoral-stats/index.html

TRANSPORT

Biofuels: Research

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the effect of recent research in synthetic biology on the development of cleaner transport fuels. [93158]

Norman Baker: Work within the Department for Transport (DFT) is looking at the potential renewable energy production and greenhouse gas savings derived from a variety of different technologies. This includes synthetic biology where micro-organisms are used as biocatalysts to turn materials into biofuels.

DFT recognises that advanced biofuels may offer many benefits, including increased greenhouse gas savings, producing fuels from land which was otherwise unproductive or from waste material with no other uses. Some advanced biofuels may also be more readily used in current vehicles than first generation biofuels.

First TransPennine Express

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with First TransPennine Express on amendments to its franchise agreement to permit an increase in the number of trains [93471]

Mike Penning: No amendments have been made to the franchise agreement to date. The Department for Transport is in negotiations with the preferred bidders for the manufacture, maintenance and financing of the new rolling stock. Subject to these negotiations being brought to a successful conclusion, contracts are expected to be finalised within the first quarter of 2012.

Heathrow Airport: Night Flying

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times the legal limit of night flights at Heathrow airport has been breached in the latest period for which figures are available. [91792]

Mrs Villiers: At Heathrow airport there is a movement and noise quota limit for the summer and winter seasons. The airport operator is also allowed to carry up to 10% of unused movements and noise quota points to the next period. There has been no breach to these limits since the current night flight restrictions came into operation in 2006.

Railways: Accidents

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many young people have been killed on Merseyrail railway lines in each of the last 10 years. [93135]

Mike Penning: The Office of Rail Regulation and the RSSB collate figures of incidents and accidents on the railway that are reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases, and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995.

Both these bodies publish annual reports in which such rail safety statistics are set out. Page 127 of the RSSB Annual Safety Report for 2010-11

http://www.rssb.co.uk/SPR/REPORTS/Pages/default.aspx

provides data on the number of public fatalities on the railways occurring to children since 2001-02 at a national level.

The right hon. Member might wish to contact these organisations directly to discuss figures applicable at specific local or regional levels.

Roads: Accidents

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times accidents involving one or more vehicles on the Birmingham New Road, Dudley, between Priory Road and Tipton Road, have required the attendance of the emergency services in each of the last five years. [93349]

Mike Penning: The number of reported personal injury accidents on the Birmingham New Road, Dudley, between Priory Road and Tipton Road in each of the last five years where police attended the scene and reported details of the accident to the Department is given as follows:

	Number of accidents	
	Police attended scene of accident	*Total*[1]
2006	4	4
2007	4	5
2008	2	3
2009	5	5
2010	1	3

[1] Includes accidents reported to police where police did not attend the scene of accident (ie reported later at a police station)

The Department only collects information on personal injury road accidents reported to the police. Information on the attendance of other emergency services in road accidents is not collected.

Speed Limits

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure the enforcement of 20 mph speed limits and other traffic calming measures outside schools. [92321]

Norman Baker: Enforcement is a matter for the police along with local traffic authorities who also have responsibility for traffic calming. The Department has been working with ACPO to revise its guidance in this area. We are also currently reviewing our own guidance on speed limits and are liaising with the police and local authorities as part of this.

Transport: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had on access to the Cohesion Fund ring-fenced funding in the Connecting Europe Facility for the West Wales and the Valleys region. [92157]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has not had any discussions regarding access to the Cohesion Funds (ring-fenced for Transport projects) referred to in the European Commission's proposal for a Connecting Europe Facility. The UK is not eligible for Cohesion Funding.

Railways: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what she proposes will be the total expenditure from *(a)* her Department's budget and *(b)* Network

Rail's regulated asset base on electrification of the TransPennine Express in each of the remaining years of the comprehensive spending review period. [91586]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* Following the Department for Transport's commitment to fund the electrification of the North TransPennine Express line as part of the Growth Review, Network Rail has begun working up detailed plans for the delivery of this scheme. This includes considering the delivery programme for this work.

The Department for Transport and Network Rail are confident that the early works which were committed to at the Growth Review can be funded as a result of efficiencies which Network Rail has made within the current Control Period. We therefore anticipate that there will be no additional cost to the public purse within Control Period 4 from undertaking this scheme.

From the start of Control Period 5 in 2014-15, the investment which has been added to Network Rail's Regulated Asset Base will be reflected through a charge for the cost of Network Rail's capital.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what she proposes will be the total expenditure from *(a)* her Department's budget and *(b)* Network Rail's regulated asset base on measures to reduce disruption on the rail network in each of the remaining years of the comprehensive spending review period. [91587]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 24 January 2012]:* As part of the Growth Review, the Department for Transport committed to fund £100 million of further investment in the Network Rail Discretionary Fund (NRDF) to reduce disruption on the rail network and reduce the cost of running the railway. We anticipate that this investment will be complete by the end of Control Period 4 in 2013-14.

This investment will be funded by efficiencies which Network Rail has made within the current Control Period. We therefore anticipate that there will be no additional cost to the public purse within Control Period 4 from undertaking this scheme.

From the start of Control Period 5 in 2014-15, the £100 million investment which has been added to Network Rail's Regulated Asset Base will be reflected through a charge for the cost of Network Rail's capital.

A number of other means of reducing disruption on the rail network are being funded in Control Period 4 and the Department will consider the case for funding further measures in Control Period 5.

TREASURY

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89698]

Miss Chloe Smith: The information is answered in the following table:

£000

Allowance	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Procurement	25	25
Cost of living (overseas)	65	43
Fast stream	5	2
Additional performance	50	64
Language[1]	9	0
London Location Allowance	—	7
Overtime	1,116	683
Responsibility	205	234
Press Office	49	44
Private Secretary	225	189
Miscellaneous	18	18
Typing proficiency	1	0
Meal (for working after 8 pm)	12	7
Housing cost	3	1
London (for Senior Civil Service band 1 staff)	167	150
Internal Audit	14	16
Accountancy	66	62

[1] Now coded as London location allowance

Allowances such as procurement, audit and accountancy are paid to staff in recognition of professional qualifications; they occupy a designated post in the profession and undertake the required professional activities. Other allowances are paid to staff when they are posted abroad to cover rental and cost of living. Overtime and meal allowance is paid to staff who work beyond their contracted hours. Private office and press office allowance is paid to some staff who work in these offices in recognition of the long hours worked. Those in receipt of the allowance do not claim overtime.

All allowances paid are considered as part of the overall pay and reward strategy in HM Treasury. In line with the announcement on the public sector pay freeze by the Chancellor in October 2009, all allowances have been frozen along with pay. The two-year pay freeze ends in 2012 for HM Treasury and allowances will be reviewed in line with the 1% pay cap and as part of the overall reward strategy.

	Bonus award	
Bonus type[1]	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Performance (£000)	1,218	905
Number of performance awards	1,013	316
Special (£000)	98	127
Number of special awards	236	308
20 largest bonus and allowance awards (£000)	15	15
	15	15
	15	15
	13	12.5
	13	12.5

	Bonus award	
Bonus type[1]	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
	13	12.5
	13	12.5
	12	12
	10	11.3
	10	10
	10	10
	10	10
	10	10
	10	10
	10	10
	10	10
	10	10
	10	10
	10	10
	10	10

[1] Some staff may have received both types of bonus payment in a single financial year.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has agreed any contracts with *(a)* private hire vehicle and *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010. [92848]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury has not agreed any new contracts with either *(a)* private hire vehicle or *(b)* taxi companies since May 2010.

An extension of 10 months to the existing contract with Goldstar Taxis Norwich was agreed in June 2011.

Mortgages

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has considered taking to encourage early repayment of mortgage debt. [93162]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to reducing the burden of debt built up before the crisis. In the short term it is also important that household spending supports recovery in the economy. This will encourage employment and economic growth and will contribute to stronger income and aid the transition to a lower long-term debt burden. The Government's tough action on the deficit will support this process. Interest payments for mortgages are currently the lowest as a proportion of total income since records began.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Members: Females

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she is taking to increase the number of women hon. Members. [92378]

Lynne Featherstone: It is important that our democracy is representative of the people it serves. As I said in responding to the Back Bench debate on 12 January 2012, *Official Report,* columns 438-442, on the Speaker's Conference, the Government welcome the 2010 Speaker's Conference report on Parliamentary Representation and support the broad thrust of its recommendations to improve the diversity of Members of Parliament.

The Equality Act 2010 allows parties to use women-only shortlists if they wish to do so. We are working with the political parties and the House authorities on ways of encouraging more women to seek election, and for Parliament's working practices to recognise the diverse needs of its Members and potential Members, especially women, so that they can be fully effective representatives.

We are also working with the parties on the importance and benefits of parties collecting and publishing diversity data relating to candidates. This was discussed at a round table meeting between officials and political parties' diversity representatives on 27 January 2012.

Social Services: Female Workers

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Women and Equalities whether she has assessed the potential effect of the recommendations of the Dilnot Commission on women working in social care. [92861]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department of Health.

The coalition agreement set out the the Government's clear commitment to reforming the system of social care to provide much more control to individuals and their carers and to ease the cost burden that they and their families face.

This commitment to reform is why we acted quickly to set up the Commission on Funding of Care and Support, which published its report in July 2011.

When the commission published its report, the Government set out a clear timetable for assessing the impacts of the commission's recommendations, making the necessary trade-offs with other priorities for social care reform, and deciding on the best way forward. We said that we were working towards a White Paper on social care and a progress report on funding reform in spring 2012, and we remain committed to that timetable.

The commission's report has formed the basis of the Government's recent engagement with stakeholders. This engagement exercise examined the impact of these recommendations and brought them together with other priorities for reform from across the social care system to look at the trade-offs between them.

In addition to our work with social care stakeholders, the Department is looking in detail at the impact of the commission's recommendations. A full assessment of the recommendations will be included in the progress report, which we will publish in the spring. We are not able to pre-judge the contents of that report now by commenting in detail on the impact of the recommendations.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Schemes

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the 2008 report commissioned by his Department, "A comparative review of workfare programmes in the United States, Canada and Australia"; and if he will make a statement. [92380]

Chris Grayling: The report 'A comparative review of workfare programmes in the United States, Canada and Australia' (Department for Work and Pensions, Research Report No. 533) demonstrated that workfare schemes that have removed a requirement to continue jobsearch activity can lock claimants in, reducing their likelihood of entering sustained employment.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not operate a workfare scheme. Nonetheless, the Department has considered the findings of this report in the design of its current employment programmes. This includes ensuring that JSA claimants participating in programmes that include a period of mandatory work experience continue to be required to actively seek and be available for employment and are given appropriate time and, in many cases, additional support to find work.

Atos Healthcare

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 840W, on Atos Healthcare, what proportion of all claimants participating in the Atos Quality Survey rated Atos Healthcare's performance as *(a)* very good, *(b)* good, *(c)* poor and *(d)* very poor in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011. [93232]

Chris Grayling: Unfortunately the information requested above is not available in the format requested.

The answer could be provided only in the requested format at costs that exceed the disproportionate cost limit of £800 for parliamentary questions.

The data provided from the survey is collated into a Highlight Report by Atos Healthcare on a monthly basis. An overall satisfaction measurement that makes reference to key questions about Atos Healthcare service provision by both Medical Assessment Centres and Domiciliary Visits is provided. Services scored include:

Arranging appointments;

Rearranging appointments;

Receptionist; and

The Health Care Professional (HCP).

The overall findings for November 2011 are included as follows:

		Overall	
Question		*Number answered*	*Number very/ quite good*
Arrange appointment	Overall	425	368
Rearrange appointment	How easy	409	333
Receptionist	Overall	819	743
HCP	Courtesy	924	882
	Professionalism	919	850
	Gentleness	911	827
Total		4,407	4,003
Percentage		90.83	

The overall response rate is 31.5%.

Source:

Atos Healthcare

The data generated in this format indicate why there would be a disproportionate cost to providing detail for 48 months as requested.

Employment Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average is of the single payments contracted to be made to mandatory work activity providers. [91495]

Chris Grayling: The specific amounts paid to individual mandatory work activity providers are commercial in confidence.

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what basis payments are made to the two agencies providing services in assisting claimants to return to work; and whether payments are made in respect of clients where *(a)* the agency and *(b)* the individuals have found the work. [92133]

Chris Grayling: The two Work programme providers the hon. Gentleman refers to, A4e and Ingeus Deloitte, along with all other providers, receive three types of payment. These are:

a small attachment fee for each claimant referred to the Work programme. This is designed to assist with start-up costs and will reduce over the first three years until it is zero in year four;

an outcome fee that is paid after 26 weeks in employment for mainstream jobseeker's allowance claimants, and after 13 weeks for jobseeker's allowance early access claimants and all other claimant groups;

a sustainment payment that is paid to the provider every four weeks that a claimant stays in work. These payments can be claimed for up to one year, eighteen months or two years, depending on how far the claimant originally was from the labour market.

Outcome fees are not payable as soon as claimants start work, in recognition of the fact that some claimants would have found work without a provider's support. Rather, outcome payments after 13 or 26 weeks, coupled with sustainment payments thereafter, create strong incentives for providers to help claimants into sustained employment and to continue to support them to stay in work.

Homeworking: Safety

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to simplify health and safety guidance for those working from home. [91979]

Chris Grayling: As part of the response to 'Common Sense, Common Safety', last year the Health and Safety Executive produced much shorter, simplified and downloadable guidance on homeworkers.

Housing Benefit

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to maintain sufficient levels of local housing allowance. [92315]

Steve Webb: Housing benefit expenditure has spiralled out of control, doubling in cash terms between 2000 and 2010, when it reached £21 billion. Left unreformed, housing benefit would cost £26 billion by 2014-15 (cash terms). It is absolutely essential that the Government take urgent steps to manage housing benefit expenditure. The local housing allowance reforms, announced in the Emergency Budget and spending review, will, by 2014-15, result in annual savings of around £1.5 billion.

To ease the transition for these reforms the Government have put in place a substantial package of financial and practical support worth £190 million over the spending review period. The Government are also giving existing customers up to nine months transitional protection from the review date of their claim to help them adjust to the new rates and to find alternative accommodation if needed.

These measures are intended to exert a downward pressure on rents in the private rented sector. To support this drive, the Government are temporarily widening local authority discretion to pay housing benefit direct to the landlord if it would help the claimant secure a new tenancy or remain in their current home at a reduced rent.

The Department for Work and Pensions has commissioned a major programme of independent research that will evaluate and monitor the effects of the local housing allowance changes. The preliminary findings of this research will be available in spring 2012.

Social Security Benefits

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure out-of-work families receive benefit support that reflects the individual circumstances of a household. [92314]

Chris Grayling: All claims for out-of-work benefits are assessed on a case-by-case basis. This ensures that the level of benefit support varies according to the needs of the household.

From 2013 the Government will introduce a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so that in most cases households on out-of-work benefits will no longer receive more in welfare payments than the average weekly wage for working households. However, the cap will not apply in some cases, including where there are additional needs arising from disability and a member of the household is receiving disability living allowance.

Social Security Benefits: Foreign Workers

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average age was of migrants to the UK who claimed working age benefits in the latest period for which figures are available. [92230]

Chris Grayling: The average age of DWP working age benefit claimants, as at February 2011, who were non-UK nationals at the point of national insurance number registration was 42.

Notes:

1. These statistics do not provide a measure of non-UK nationals currently claiming benefits based on their current nationality. The statistics do provide an estimate of the number of people currently claiming benefit who, when they first registered for a NINo (that is, first entered the labour market), were non-UK nationals.

2. State pension age: The age at which women reach state pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020

3. Figures represent the mean age (where age is known), rounded to the nearest year.

Source:

DWP: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and HMRC National Insurance and Pay as you Earn System (NPS)

DWP has recently published statistics on the nationality of benefit claimants at the point of their registration for a national insurance number. Further information can be found in the full statistics release 'Nationality at point of National Insurance number registration of DWP benefit claimants' at

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=adhoc_analysis

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of migrants to the UK who were claiming working age benefits were female in the latest period for which figures are available. [92231]

Chris Grayling: The gender of DWP working age benefit claimants, as at February 2011, who were non-UK nationals at the point of national insurance number registration is given in the following table.

	Total	*Proportion (percentage)*
Male	173,540	47
Female	197,490	53

Notes:

1. These statistics do not provide a measure of non-UK nationals currently claiming benefits based on their current nationality. The statistics do provide an estimate of the number of people currently claiming benefit who, when they first registered for a NINo (that is, first entered the labour market), were non-UK nationals.

2. Counts are rounded to the nearest 10, proportions to the nearest percentage.

Source:

DWP: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and HMRC National Insurance and Pay as you Earn System (NPS).

DWP has recently published statistics on the nationality of benefit claimants at the point of their registration for a national insurance number. Further information can be found in the full statistics release 'Nationality at point of National Insurance number registration of DWP benefit claimants' at

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=adhoc_analysis

Unemployment: Young People

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the Prince's Trust Youth Index 2012 in respect of its findings on youth unemployment. [92021]

Chris Grayling: The Prince's Trust Youth Index 2012 highlights the importance of structure, routine and support in the lives of young people. We agree with this and have a coherent strategy to increase the number of 16 to 24-year-olds who are in education, employment or training. This includes measures to increase the participation age and a new youth contract worth £1 billion. The contract will provide more intensive support for all 18 to 24-year-olds—building on that already available through Jobcentre Plus and the Work programme. It also makes extra funding available to support the most vulnerable NEET 16 and 17-year-olds into learning, an apprenticeship or job with training.

Universal Credit: Carers

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure payment of universal credit to a main carer. [92313]

Chris Grayling: Under universal credit, couples will make a joint claim for benefit payment. We have been clear that claimants will receive universal credit as a single payment. This will ensure that claimants can clearly see the effect of their decisions about work on total household income. Couples will have the choice about which bank account their total UC award should go into, including the option to have it paid into a joint account, and they will have the freedom to manage their money how they choose.

There may be cases which require alternative arrangements and as a safeguard we have ensured that we have legislative provision to split payments to couples in certain circumstances. We are considering the circumstances required to split payments, and further detail will be available in due course.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has considered replacing severe disability premium as part of his plans for universal credit for the purposes of helping young carers to reduce the burden of care. [92317]

Chris Grayling: The severe disability premium was never intended as a payment for young carers; it was designed to provide extra support for severely disabled people who live alone. It is the role of local authorities to ensure that the education, development and general well-being of young carers is not affected by any caring responsibilities.

Universal credit will simplify the current system of multiple and overlapping disability premiums, replacing these with two rates: a lower rate for people with limited capability for work and a higher rate for people who also have limited capability for work-related activity. The higher rate will be substantially higher than the equivalent rate in employment and support allowance. This will provide a more consistent approach to support for severely disabled people who are least able to work than the current complex structure.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contribution his Department is making to implementation of the Compact with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [92277]

Chris Grayling: The Department implements the principles of the Compact by following the Government code of practice on consultation and by requiring welfare to work providers to comply with the code of conduct which underpins the DWP commissioning strategy. The Compact principles are further embedded through the Merlin Standard, which all providers are required to achieve as a condition of their contracts.

The Department believes that the voluntary sector has a key role to play in supporting DWP's most vulnerable customers to move into or retain employment and, as such, will endeavour to comply with the principles of the Compact in all its dealings with these organisations.

Work Programme

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many voluntary sector providers in the Work programme supply chain were identified through the stocktake of 31 January 2012. [91494]

Chris Grayling: The figures from the most recent stocktake are currently being collated and will be issued in due course.

Working Conditions: Temperature

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with representatives of trades unions on high temperatures in the workplace. [91843]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), has not had any recent discussions with representatives of trade unions on high temperatures in the workplace.

Trade union representatives were involved in an independent review into workplace temperatures commissioned by the Health and Safety Executive in 2009 and in a subsequent survey about temperatures in workplaces.

HSE has also met with trade union representatives to discuss high temperatures on a number of occasions.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on high temperatures in the workplace. [91890]

Chris Grayling: The DWP ministerial team has had no recent representations on high temperatures in the workplace.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 23 January 2012

TRANSPORT

Departmental Consultants

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which consultants and advisers her Department has employed in respect of the *(a)* Thameslink programme, *(b)* Thameslink rolling stock procurement and *(c)* Intercity Express programme; how much she has budgeted in respect of each such contractor; and how much each contractor has invoiced to date. [76031]

[Official Report, 23 November 2011, Vol. 536, c. 411-12W.]

Letter of correction from Mrs Theresa Villiers:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Leicester South (Jonathan Ashworth) on 23 November 2011. The full answer given was as follows:

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* The information requested can be found as follows.

Thameslink Rolling Stock Project

£ million

	Costs incurred to May 2010	*Cost incurred June 2010 to September 2011*	*October 2011 to March 2012 forecast*
Arup	4.0	1.7	0.5
Freshfields	6.6	1.9	1.3
PWC	2.5	0.9	0.6
Interfleet	1.5	0.1	0
Booz	0.5	0.3	0.1
Total	15.1	4.9	2.5

Thameslink Programme

£ million

	Costs incurred to May 2010	*Cost incurred June 2010 to September 2011*	*October 2011 to March 2012 forecast*
Atkins	0.5	0.1	0.1
EC Harris	0.2	0.1	0.25
SDG	0	0.1	0.03
Nichols	1.4	0.3	0.04
Bovis Lend Lease Consulting	0.7	0.4	0.09
Eversheds	0.07	0.01	0
Willis	0.036	0.004	0.01
Total	2.906	1.014	0.52

IEP Programme

£ million

	Costs incurred to May 2010	*Cost incurred June 2010 to September 2011*	*October 2011 to March 2012 forecast*
Barkers HR Advertising	0.016	0	0
Capita Resourcing	0.3	0.008	0
Clifford Chance	0.002	0	0
Congress Centre	0.012	0	0
Ernst and Young	0.2	0	0
First Class Partnership	0.006	0	0
Freshfields	5.6	1.0	1.1
Jim Standen Associates	0.01	0	0
Manpower	0	0.13	0.25
Mott MacDonald	11.8	0.48	0.70
MWB Business Exchange	0.002	0	0
Nichols	3.1	0.09	0.02
PWC	2.5	0.16	0.8
QCs	0	0.01	0.01
Reed Employment	0.06	0.03	0
SDG	1.2	0.13	0
Willis	0.01	0.005	0.009
Total	24.81	2.04	2.88

Detailed spending plans for years beyond the financial year 2011-12 have not yet been agreed.

The correct answer should have been:

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* The information requested can be found as follows.

Thameslink Rolling Stock Project

£ million

	Costs incurred to May 2010	*Cost incurred June 2010 to September 2011*	*October 2011 to March 2012 forecast*
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£ million

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Congress Centre	0.012	0	0
Ernst and Young	0.2	0	0
First Class Partnership	0.006	0	0
Freshfields	5.6	1.0	1.1
Jim Standen Associates	0.01	0	0
Manpower	0	0.13	0.25
Mott MacDonald	11.8	0.48	0.70
MWB Business Exchange	0.002	0	0
Nichols	3.1	0.09	0.02
PWC	2.5	0.16	0.8
QCs	0	0.01	0.01
Reed Employment	0.06	0.03	0
SDG	1.2	0.13	0
Willis	0.01	0.005	0.009
Total	24.91	2.04	2.88

Detailed spending plans for years beyond the financial year 2011-12 have not yet been agreed.

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